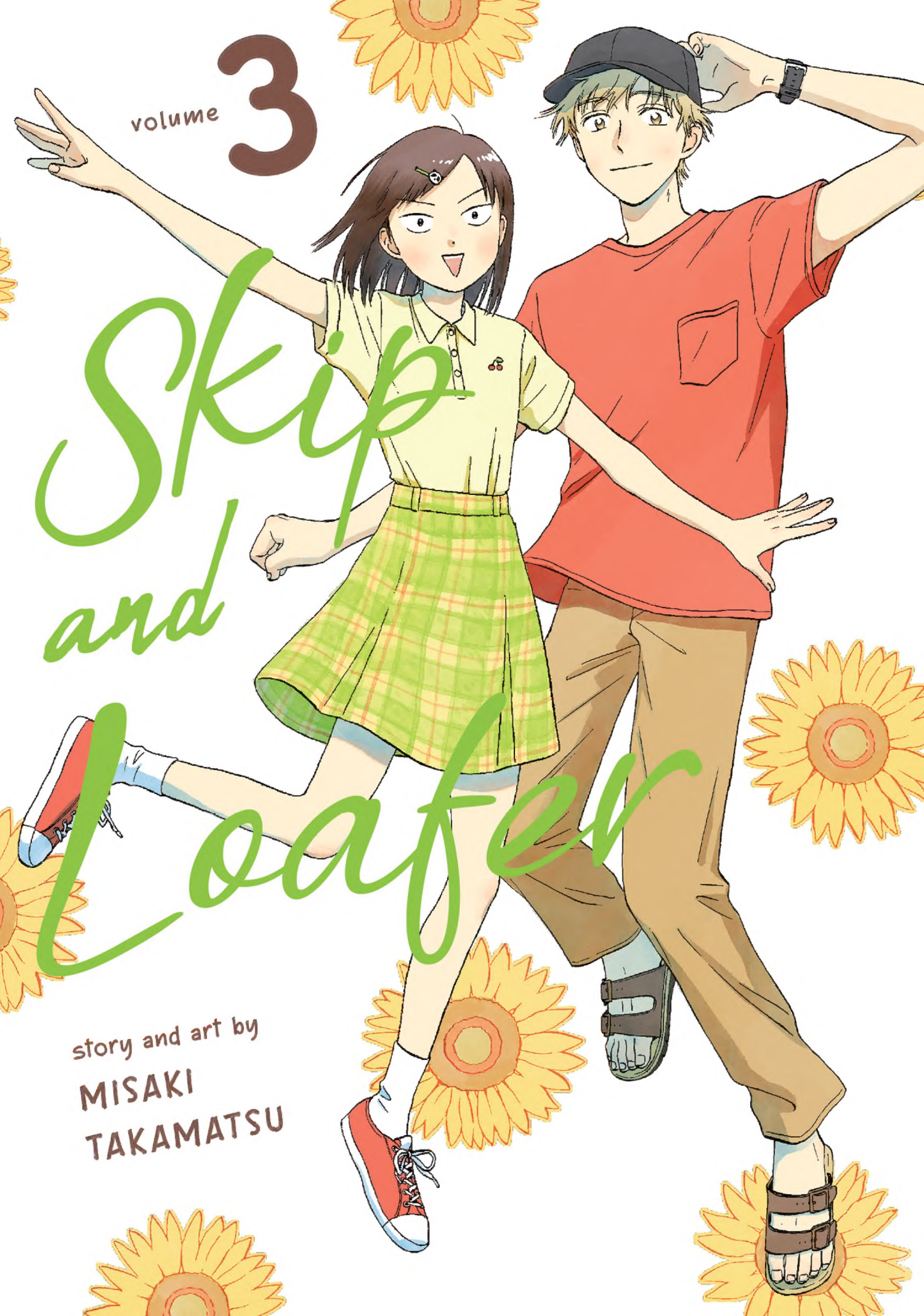
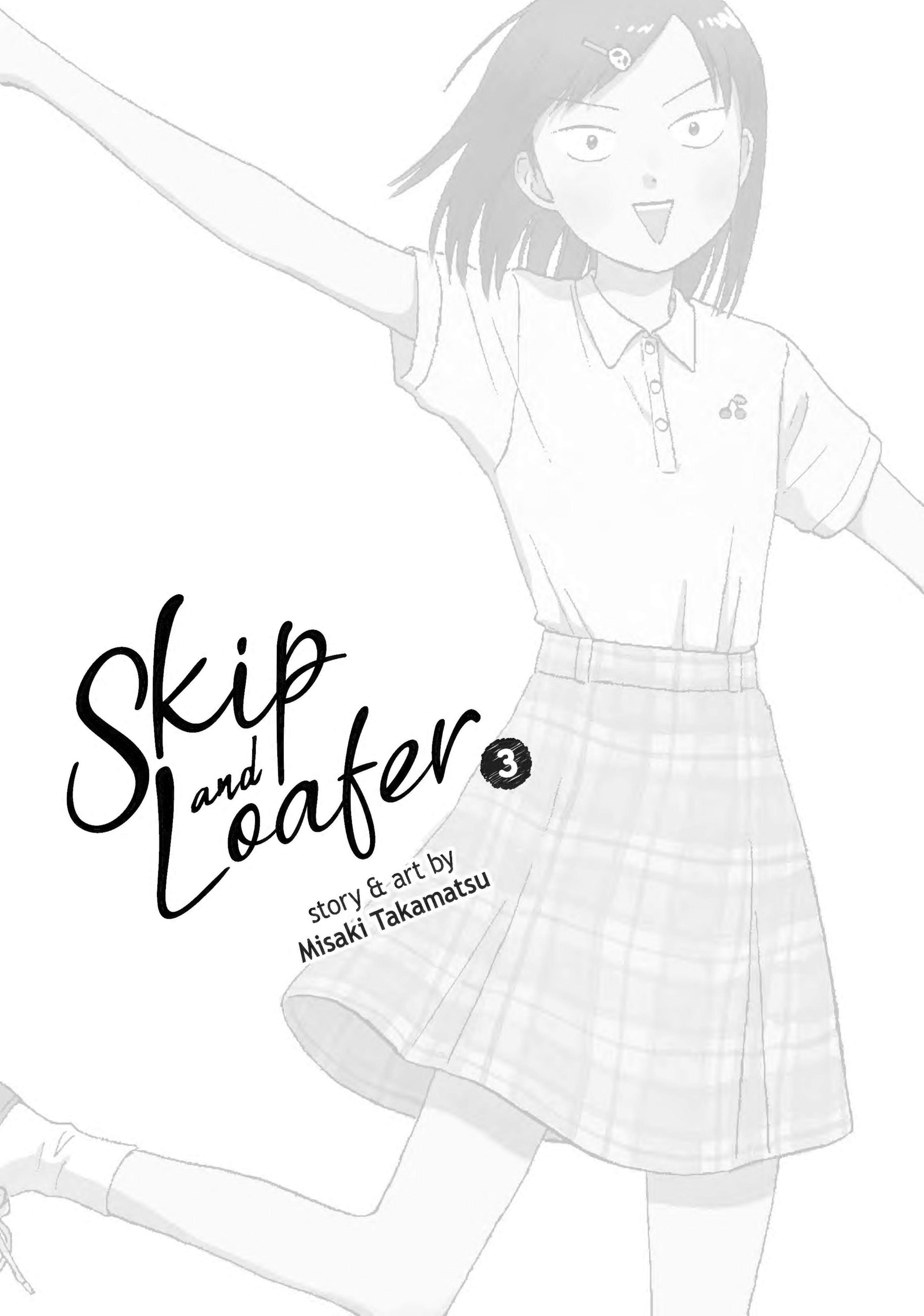

volume 3
Skip and Loafer
story and art by
MISAKI TAKAMATSU



Skip and Loafer 3

story & art by
Misaki Takamatsu



Scene ⑫ The Presidential Election Shake-Up

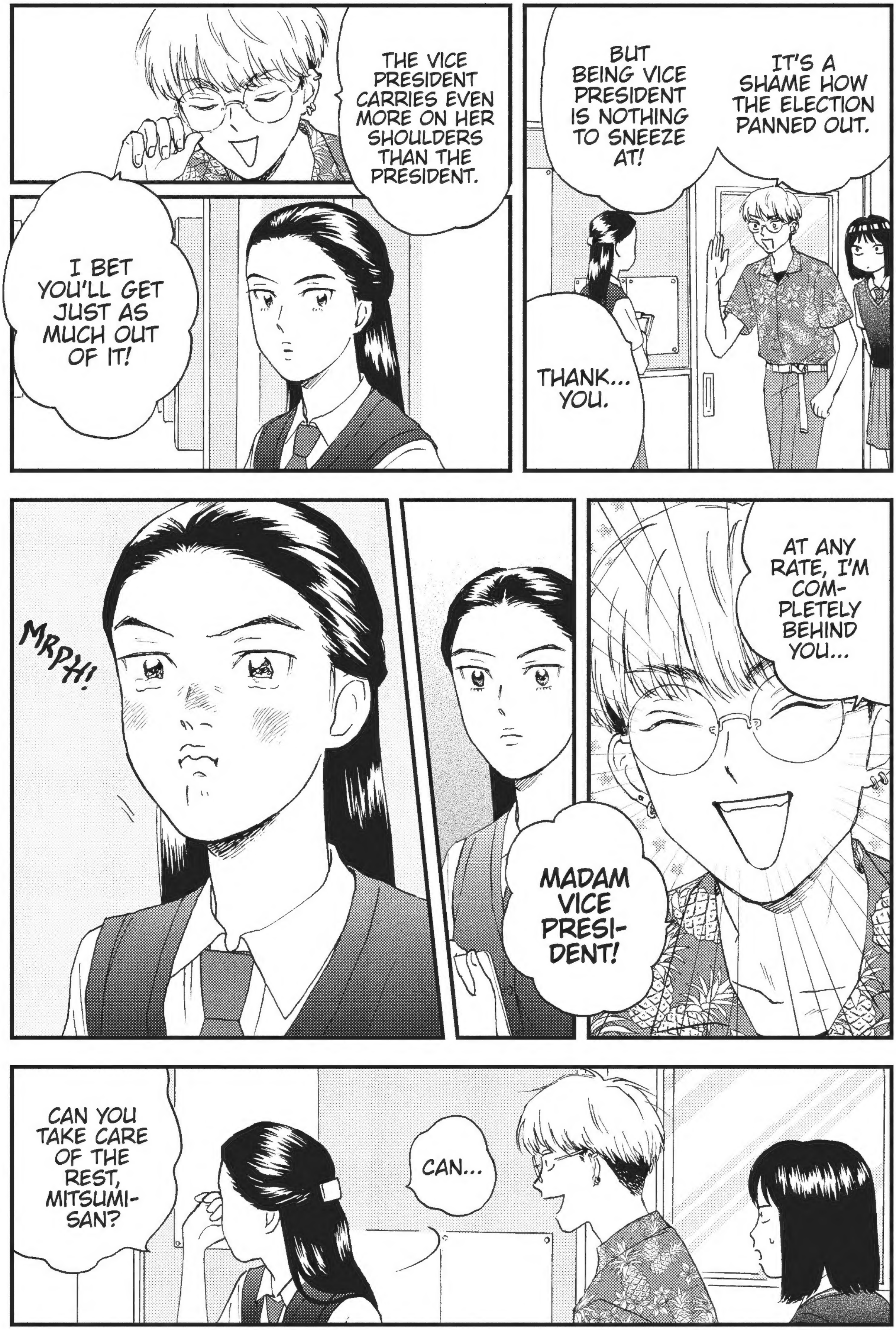

It's July...
and a lovely blue sky congratulates us on finishing our final exams.
Dear friends and family back home in Ikajima. I hope you folks are doing well.
They're over... Finally over!
Just for today, I won't agonize about my test scores...
or the other little things weighing me down.


"I THINK THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER BEEN...
"REAL FRIENDS...
"WITH A GIRL."
Those are problems for another day!
That's where I'm at right now.
But don't you worry, I won't rest on my laurels.
I've got a student council roundtable discussion after school today.
Which reminds me, I have a (belated) announcement to make! I, Iwakura Mitsumi...
have been officially appointed...
student council secretary for the first term!


Roundtable Discussion
Hosted by the Student Council
7/11
4:00 PM ~
Mtg. Room B 2F
Today's Topic
Reinventing things we love about Tsubame West
All students are welcome!
Hope to see you there! ♪
I THINK THIS IS AN EXCELLENT PLACE TO ADJOURN.
THANKS TO YOU, THIS HAS BEEN VERY PRODUCTIVE.
Takamine Tokiko
Second-Year
And the new president is, of course...


At least, that was my assumption.
FOR OUR CLOSING ADDRESS...
I'LL TURN TO YOU, PRESIDENT.
THANKS FOR JOINING US TODAY, EVERYBODY!
I PROMISE WE WILL WASTE NO TIME GETTING TO WORK.
WITH YOUR GREAT IDEAS, WE'LL MAKE TSUBAME WEST THE BEST IT CAN BE.
HA HA HA!
Vice President.
Kazakami Hiroto
New Student Council President
Second-Year
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU GUYS, BUT THOSE EXAMS REALLY TOOK IT OUT OF ME.
GREAT WORK! GO HOME AND GET SOME REST!


ALOHA~
MITSUMI-KUN!
CONGRATS ON YOUR FORMAL INDUCTION INTO THE STUDENT COUNCIL!
Narumi Kanechika
Incoming President of the Drama Club
Second-Year
KANE-CHIKA-SENPAI!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I'll grab this end.
I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE, SENPAI.
Heh heh...
I'VE NEVER MISSED A ROUNDTABLE THAT DIDN'T CONFLICT WITH DRAMA CLUB.
AFTER ALL, IDEAS ARE BORN FROM SUCH COMMUNI-CATION.
OH!
TAKAMINE-KUN!


IT'S A SHAME HOW THE ELECTION PANNED OUT.
BUT BEING VICE PRESIDENT IS NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT!
THANK... YOU.
THE VICE PRESIDENT CARRIES EVEN MORE ON HER SHOULDERS THAN THE PRESIDENT.
I BET YOU'LL GET JUST AS MUCH OUT OF IT!
AT ANY RATE, I'M COM-PLETELY BEHIND YOU...
MADAM VICE PRESI-DENT!
MRPH!
CAN...
CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF THE REST, MITSUMI-SAN?


パタ PATTER
パタ… PATTER
MITSUMI-KUN?
HAVE I SAID SOMETHING BAD?
......
KANE-CHIKA-SENPAI...
TAKAMINE-SENPAI'S WOUNDS ARE STILL VERY FRESH.
Let's go back in time to a certain day in July...
THANK YOU, TSUBAME SOCIETY!


I'LL BE LEAVING THE STUDENT COUNCIL IN THE NEXT ASSEMBLY WITH THE OTHER THIRD-YEARS.
All right!
WE'VE GOT THE HANDOUTS FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DONE WELL AHEAD OF SCHEDULE!
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
THANKS TO YOU, WE CAN LEAVE ON A HIGH NOTE!
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
I THOUGHT THE THIRD-YEARS WOULD STAY IN OFFICE UNTIL SEPTEMBER.
NO, STUDENT GOVERNMENT TERMS ARE A LITTLE OUT OF SYNC WITH THE SCHOOL YEAR.
PROBABLY TO HELP US FOCUS ON COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS.
I FEEL A LOT BETTER KNOWING I HAVE OUR RELIABLE KOUHAI TAKING OVER.
Ha ha!
RIGHT, TAKAMINE?
RIGHT!


YESTERDAY WAS THE DEADLINE FOR PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS, RIGHT?
YES, AND IT SOUNDS LIKE I WAS THE ONLY ONE. THAT'S A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.
STILL, WHAT A SHAME. I WAS HOPING FOR A FIGHT!
Oh!
SOMEONE ELSE ENTERED JUST BEFORE THE CUTOFF.
REALLY?
IS...IS THAT RIGHT?
BUT LOOKING AT MY TRACK RECORD, I'M SURE THEY WON'T BE A--
Ooh.
WHO'S--
IT'S KAZAKAMI-KUN, THE SECOND-YEAR.
......!!!
......


KAZAKAMI-SENPAI, THE SECOND-YEAR.
TALK ABOUT YOUR WORST-CASE SCENARIO.
YOU KNOW HIM, MIKA-CHAN?
Hunh...
OH, HE'S FAMOUS.
WE'RE TALKING SHIMA-KUN FAMOUS.
Ohh.
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE NEXT SOCCER CAPTAIN, BUT HE GOT INJURED THIS SPRING.
MAYBE HE WANTED TO TRY SOMETHING NEW?
HUSH...
シュン…
OH. I SEE.



※ Translation: Right?!


YOU ARE HEREBY ELECTED THE NEW STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
SENPAI...
...
Oh well!!
THERE'S NO CHANGING IT NOW!
!
AFTER ALL, KAZAKAMI-SAN HAD TO BE FORCED TO GIVE UP SOCCER CLUB.
I'M SURE HE'LL BE JUST AS DEVOTED TO HIS DUTIES ON THE COUNCIL.
......


THAT'S WHY I'M GIVING HIM THE NOTEBOOK IN WHICH I'VE RECORDED ALL THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES!
I'VE BEEN KEEPING METICULOUS NOTES ON THE SUBJECT SINCE I JOINED, YOU KNOW.
THAT'S AMAZING, SENPAI!
ぱち CLAP
ぱち CLAP
He'll get great use out of it!
MY BROTHER USED TO DO THAT, TOO.
BUT YOU COULD COME BACK NEXT YEAR. I MEAN, YOU'RE ALREADY BETTER.
HA HA HA!
I COULD, SURE. BUT HERE'S THE THING.
I WAS NEVER GOING TO BE IN A CLUB DURING MY LAST YEAR.
WHAT, REALLY?
TERMS ARE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR, SO IT'S A WIN-WIN FOR ME.
HA
PLUS, IT PUTS ME ON THE TEACHERS' RADAR IN A GOOD WAY.
HA HA!
YOU DO LOVE TO STAND OUT.


HEY, WHO DESERVES A PLACE AT THE TOP MORE THAN ME?
HA
HA!
WEEEAK!
YOU CAN ONLY GET AWAY WITH THAT 'CAUSE YOU'RE HOT!
THAT'S THE JOKE I TRIED TO TELL THAT FELL FLAT!
They're laughing at it!
Oh!
Ha ha...
I'M...A FOOL, AREN'T I?
SHAKE
SHAKE
NO YOU AREN'T!
SENPAI...
BUT THIS...
......
When I'm the president
Takamine Tokiko
Campass


パタパタ
When I'm the president
......
THIS...
THIS IS THE BEST I CAN DO...
I WANTED TO CHEER HER UP...
BUT I COULDN'T.


TAKAMINE-SENPAI AND I ARE A LITTLE BIT ALIKE, I THINK.
I'VE BEGUN TO REALIZE THE SAME THINGS SHE HAS.
HARD WORK BUILDS CONFIDENCE.
BUT STILL.
IT'S SCARY THAT ALL WE CAN DO IS HOPE...
THAT SOMEDAY IT'LL PAY OFF.
HM.


See ya!
Byeee!
You guys have guard duty?
Yep.
Takamine-senpai and I stay after school on Tuesdays.
Wooow. That sounds hard.
Nope!
There's never much to do, so I use the time to study.
There we go.
Ohh...
Mind if I come, too?
Huh?
You said you study, right?
I've got time to kill today, so...
Would that be okay?
I'm... sure she won't mind.
All riiight!
Smile
Smile
My friendship points with him are rising. That's all.
Friendship points.
Hoo...
Haa...



Student Council Office
SLAM
HEY, EVERY-BODY!
HUH?! SHIMA-KUN?!
Whoa.
EXCELLENT. I WANTED YOU TO SEE THIS, TOO.
HEH HEH...
SEE WHAT?
KACHAK
HEH HEH HEH...
HE HAS HIS OWN PROJEC-TOR.
SHWP
てき
PASHUNK
ぱき
ARE WE GOING TO WATCH A MOVIE?


CHARLEY HORSE
グオーーッ
BWOOOOM
デーーン
DUNNN
デーーン
DUNNN
"CHARLEY"...?
As in a leg cramp?
"CHARLEY HORSE"?
I THOUGHT IT WAS A CLEVER NAME AT THE TIME.
Producer Kane
Concept Kane
Scenario Kanechika N
Filming Kanechika N
rector Kanec
HUH...?!
WAS THIS...?
YES! I CAN SEE IT NOW!
BASED ON THE ELEVATION OF THE MOUNTAINS, I ESTIMATE IT TO BE--
!!!
STAR WOW...


Oooh--!
......!!
THIS WAS THE FIRST MOVIE I EVER MADE!
AND SINCE I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS IN FIFTH GRADE, IT WAS A ONE-MAN PRODUCTION!
BUT THE STORY IS ABOUT A CHILD GENIUS--YOURS TRULY--WHO CONTACTS A FAMOUS PALEONTOLOGIST WHEN HE WITNESSES THE EMERGENCE OF THE FEARSOME CHARLEY HORSE.
I'LL ADMIT THE SETTING IS A COMPLETE RIP-OFF. I WAS INTO SCI-FI AT THE TIME.
AND THIS DOESN'T EMBARRASS HIM?
Oh no, oh no!
This looks bad! We're in hot water now!
......
THAT'S TWO FILMS YOU'VE SHOWN ME NOW, AND...
Profes-sional child actors...
suddenly seem a lot more impressive to me.
I THINK YOU GET THE GIST OF IT.



YOU ARE EMBARRASSED, AREN'T YOU?
This is...
my first time watching it, too!
It's dark, so I can't quite tell, but...
OF COURSE I AM!
YOU SHOULD SEE THE SWEAT POURING FROM MY ARMPITS!
WAIT...
THEN WHY SHOW IT TO US?
BECAUSE, WELL...
?
?
IT'S HILARIOUS, ISN'T IT?!
OH NO! HE'S HEADED THIS WA--
OH, WAIT. OTHER WAY.
PLEASE, STOP TRYING TO BE POLITE!
I PROMISE, YOU'RE ALLOWED TO LAUGH!
But you were a kid
And you worked so hard to make it.
It's really neat.
Right?


SOMEDAY, I WANT TO CREATE SOMETHING THAT WILL EARN CRITICAL ACCLAIM. BUT AWFUL AS THIS IS...
IF IT MAKES THE THREE OF YOU LAUGH, IT'LL BE WORTH IT.


NARU-KUN! WATER-MELON!
--kun, want some water-melon?
SHH! SHHHH!
GRANDMA BROUGHT SOME... WHAT?
DAD, STOP!
I'M FILM-ING!
HEY-HEY! CHEESE!
REALLY? AM I ON CAMERA?
DAAAD!
WHACK
BZZZT...
Show's over! Everyone go home!


MITSUMI-SAN!
TAKAMINE-SENPAI!
WASN'T THAT A FUNNY MOVIE?
IT SURE WAS!
Ha ha!
I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING.
Every time I think of it!
THAT GAVE ME FOOD FOR THOUGHT...
AND I THINK I'VE FINALLY COME TO TERMS WITH EVERYTHING.
THAT'S GREAT!
Phew!


I'VE REALIZED I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FUN IN MY LIFE.
SO, HERE'S EVERYTHING FROM DAILY RELAXATIONS TO MONTHLY INDULGENCES.
CRAMMED
WHOA!
UM... I-I SEE...
Apparently, everyone else has tried it...
☆ Be more approachable
• Wear bright clothes and accessorize
• Keep the corners of my mouth slightly raised
• When someone says my name, stop and pay attention
☆ Goals for summer break
• Invite Yamamori-san and Tsukaoka-san to the festival!
• Pick out three popular places I want to try going
Maybe this is an easy place to start...
THAT'S WONDERFUL, SENPAI.
IT'S VERY YOU.


THANK YOU.
KAZAKAMI-SAN!
I WAS HOPING I'D RUN INTO YOU.
Y-YEAH?
ばったり
STUMBLE
OH.
I SHOULD HAVE SAID THIS SOONER. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.


THANKS.
I ALSO LOOK FORWARD...
TO LEARNING FROM YOUR EXAMPLE!
Want to go out to eat sometime this week? We'll get something sweet!
I'm booked solid through the end of the month.
Already?!
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
IT COULDN'T HURT TO SLACK OFF ONCE IN A WHILE. A GREAT BIG WHILE. EH?
Slack off...?!
WELL... MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
IF I SCORE WELL ENOUGH ON MY EXAMS.
ACK!
I forgot all about those!

Scene ⑫ END



Scene ⑬ Popularity Before Summer Break



KA-TNK
WELL, SUMMER BREAK'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
KA-TNK
YEP.
I CAN'T *WAAAIT* TO GO HOME!
KA-TNK
I BELIEVE IT. YOU DIDN'T GO BACK OVER GOLDEN WEEK.
KA-TNK
I'LL GO TO THE BEACH EVERY DAY...
CHOW DOWN ON FRESH WATERMELON AND TOMATOES...
AND MAYBE SHOOT OFF A BUNCH OF FIREWORKS WITH SOMEONE!
JUST THE VACATION A SCHOOLGIRL ***WOULD*** *DREAM UP.*
I'm a little jealous, though...
That sounds incredible.
I WANT TO BRING MY SCHOOL FRIENDS TO VISIT SOMEDAY, TOO.
SHIMA-KUN SAYS HE LIKES THE BEACH.
......
YOU KNOW, MITSU...


TEE HEE HEE...
YOU TALK ABOUT THIS SHIMA-KUN AN AAAWFUL LOT.
RECKON I DO, HUH?!
Hee hee...
HIS FULL NAME'S SHIMA SOUSUKE-KUN.
What sort of charac-ter...
is this guy...?
SHIMA... SOU-SUKE.
SHIMA-SUKE!!
OH!
THERE'S SHIMA-KUN.
Speak of the devil.


HEY, MITSUMI-CHAN.
G'MORNING.
GOOD MORNING.


WAS SHE APOLOGIZING TO YOU?
UHH...
YEAH. SHE ASKED ME FOR MY PHONE NUMBER.
......!!
AND, WELL... THAT'S ABOUT IT.
SO YOU SAID NO.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO THAT MORE LATELY.
SHE DEFINITELY WASN'T ASKING AS A FRIEND, AND SHE DOESN'T DESERVE...
A HALF-ASSED RELATIONSHIP.
OOF!
THE PATINA OF POPULARITY!


ARE YOU GOING BACK TO IKAJIMA OVER SUMMER BREAK?
I AM!
I was just telling my aunt about that!
I HAVE TO REMEMBER TO BRING GIFTS FOR EVERYONE BACK HOME.
INCLUDING PANDA HAIRPINS FOR FUMI-CHAN?
YEP!
GOOD MEMORY!
SHE KNOWS I'M GOING TO SEE XIANG XIANG AT THE ZOO, AFTER ALL.
Like a coin purse...
Or a handkerchief!
I WAS THINKING ABOUT PICKING HER UP SOME PANDA STUFF.
Hee hee!
Pretty chic, right?
OOH, VERY NICE.
BUT DON'T YOU THINK THE ZOO IS GOING TO BE SUPER CROWDED?
OH NO!
I DIDN'T ACCOUNT FOR THAT.
I'll end up stuck in a homo sapiens exhibit.
IT'LL BE HOT TOO, FOR SURE. BE CAREFUL.



HI, SHIMA-KUN!
HELLO.
......?!
FRIENDS?
NOPE.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THEY ARE.
= He's so cute!
IT'S UPON US, BOYS...
THE PRE-SUMMER BREAK☆ BUM'S RUSH!

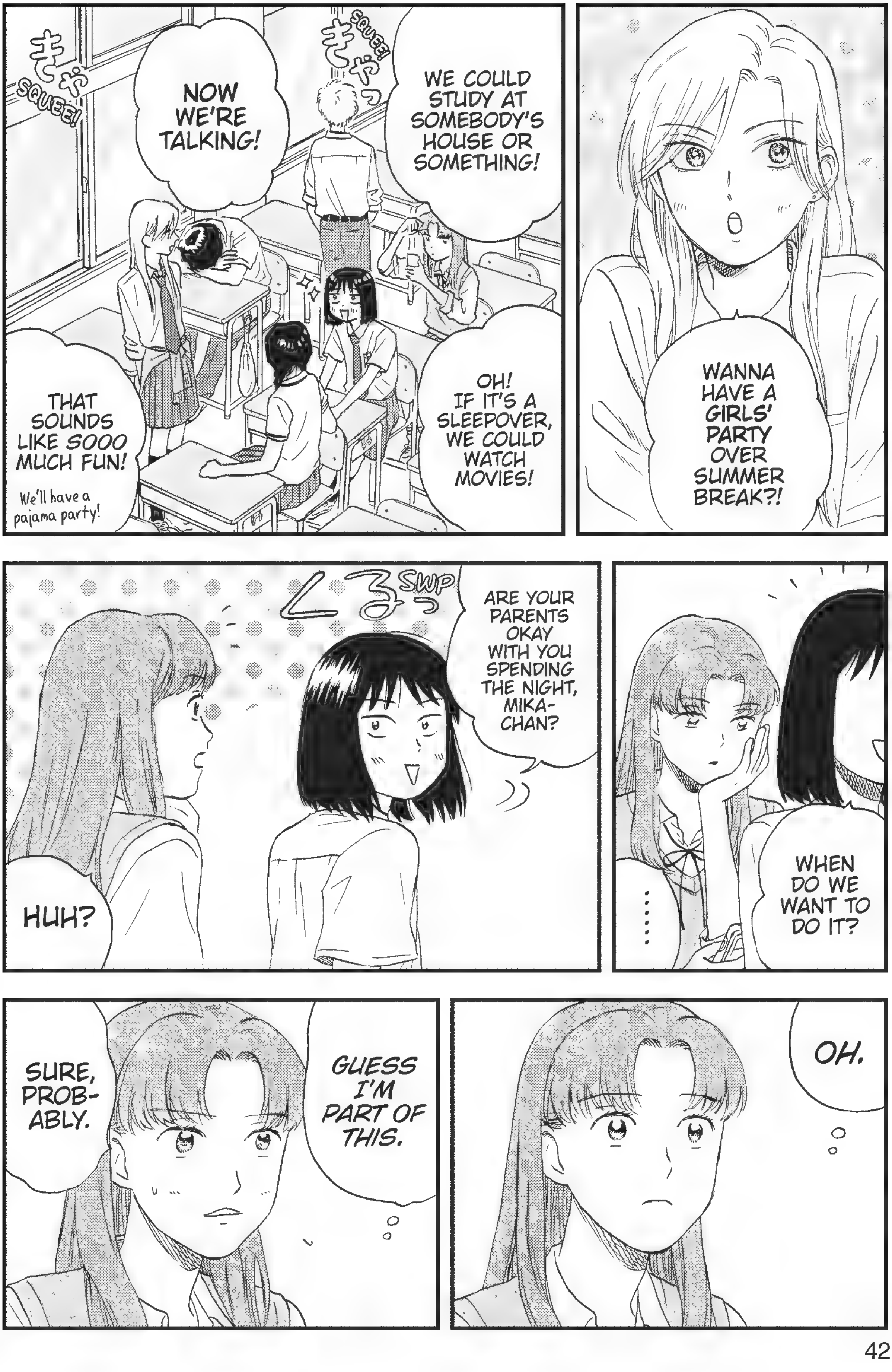

THAT'S YAGI-SENPAI, THE MADONNA OF THE SECOND-YEARS.
CURSE YOU, SHIMA! I'D KILL TO BE IN YOUR SHOES RIGHT NOW!
Ooh, ooh!
S'CUSE ME, SENSEI...
BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "BUM'S RUSH"?
GLAD YOU ASKED!
SEE, WHEN SUMMER BREAK ROLLS AROUND, YOU KNOW YOU'LL GO A WHILE WITHOUT SEEING THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE.
SO, JUST BEFORE SCHOOL'S OUT, PEOPLE BUM-RUSH THEIR CRUSH FOR CONTACT INFO OR STRAIGHT-UP ASK THEM OUT!
Really?
Erk!
Erk!


WHY, EVEN YOUR DEAR OL' SENSEI'S HEART BELONGED TO A GIRL NAMED KAORI-CHAN BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH... BUT I COULDN'T TELL HER HOW I FELT.
THEN I FOUND OUT SHE'D GOTTEN A BOYFRIEND OVER SUMMER BREAK.
SOB...
S... SENSEI!
EVEN SHIMA COULDN'T SAY NO TO A GIRL LIKE THAT!
OR MAYBE HE'S ALREADY GOT A GIRL-FRIEND!
WAAAH!
I'M NOT LISTEN-ING! I'M NOT LISTEN-ING!
IF YOU ASK SOMEONE YOU BARELY KNOW FOR THEIR PHONE NUMBER...
THAT'S A GUARANTEE YOU CAN'T JUST BE FRIENDS, YOU KNOW?
THAT TAKES GUTS.
......

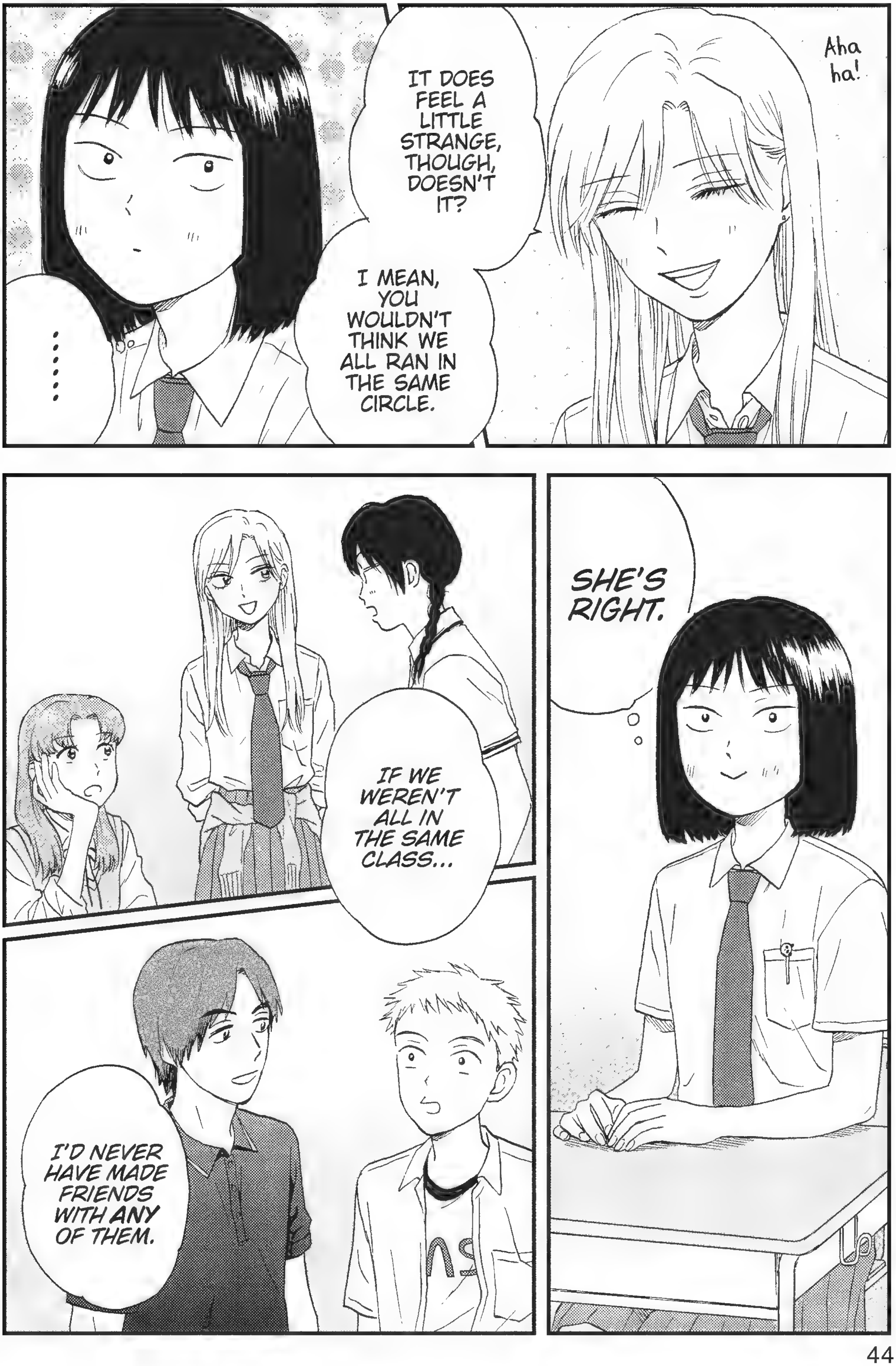


"SHE DEFINITELY WASN'T ASKING AS A FRIEND..."
Hmm...
THAT'S TRUE.
The girl from this morning was smiling.
She'd done her hair up fancy too, come to think of it.
It probably did take courage to approach him.
SHE'S BRAVE TO ASK HIM OUT LIKE THAT.
Yep.
Mm-hm.
IF I WERE HIM, I'D BE FLAT-TERED.
You hear that?
ladies!!
We'd be flattered...
Could you at least pretend it matters who the girl is?


HE'S BACK! HEY, HOT STUFF!
WHO, ME?
YAGI-SENPAI WANTED TO TALK TO YOU, RIGHT?
WHAT'D SHE SAY? TELL UUUS!
OH, UH...YOU KNOW. JUST STUFF.
You saw that, huh?
SORRY. DON'T TELL ANYONE SHE ASKED FOR ME. OKAY?
'KAY.
シュン…
DROOP
HE SHOT HER DOWN.
THAT WAS SLICK.
Urgh...
I'M RELIEVED, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, MY CHEST HURTS.
IF NOT FOR A CERTAIN SERIES OF EVENTS...
Uh...
Sorry.
I COULD HAVE BEEN THE ONE HE GENTLY SHOT DOWN!
I CAN'T HELP BUT SYMPATHIZE WITH THOSE GIRLS!


WANNA HAVE A GIRLS' PARTY OVER SUMMER BREAK?!
きゃっ SQUEE!
きゃっ SQUEE!
WE COULD STUDY AT SOMEBODY'S HOUSE OR SOMETHING!
NOW WE'RE TALKING!
OH! IF IT'S A SLEEPOVER, WE COULD WATCH MOVIES!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOOO MUCH FUN!
We'll have a pajama party!
WHEN DO WE WANT TO DO IT?
......
くるっ SWP
ARE YOUR PARENTS OKAY WITH YOU SPENDING THE NIGHT, MIKA-CHAN?
HUH?
OH.
GUESS I'M PART OF THIS.
SURE, PROBABLY.


......
OH NO, MAKO. ARE YOUR PARENTS REALLY STRICT?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S JUST, I...
I DIDN'T THINK SOMEONE LIKE ME WOULD GET INVITED TO A PAJAMA PARTY.
AND BY "SOME-ONE" I MEAN ME.
LET'S DO ALL THE THINGS HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS DO!
There, there.
IT-IT'S NOT LIKE I CARE!


Aha ha!
IT DOES FEEL A LITTLE STRANGE, THOUGH, DOESN'T IT?
I MEAN, YOU WOULDN'T THINK WE ALL RAN IN THE SAME CIRCLE.
......
SHE'S RIGHT.
IF WE WEREN'T ALL IN THE SAME CLASS...
I'D NEVER HAVE MADE FRIENDS WITH ANY OF THEM.


PASS THAT ON IN YOUR RESPECTIVE CLASSES.
THE HANDOUTS WILL BE IN EVERYONE'S BOXES TOMORROW.
ガタ KLATTER
AND THAT CONCLUDES THE CLASS OFFICER MEETING!
ガタ KLATTER
Thanks for coming, everybody!
WE CAN ASK THE CLASS ABOUT THIS FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, RIGHT?
SURE.
SPEAKING OF MORNINGS!
BEAM ぱっ
YOU KNOW HOW THIS MORNING I SAID THE ZOO'D BE PACKED?
BA-DMP
R-RIGHT.
MY HEART STILL SKIPS A BEAT AROUND HIM SOME-TIMES, BUT...


"PEOPLE SOMETIMES FEEL OBLIGED TO KEEP THEIR DISTANCE FROM HIM."
YES? WHAT ABOUT IT?
SHING
WHOA. MOOD SWING.
ZWOOP
UH. YEAH.
I LOOKED INTO IT, AND APPARENTLY, IT'S NOT TOO BAD ON WEEKDAYS.
Here.
IT ISN'T?
Can't believe I forgot that.
OH, OF COURSE!
Ack!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GO IN THERE?
ADULTS DON'T GET SUMMER BREAKS, SO THAT MAKES SENSE!


We only met by happen-stance...
but I'm glad we're friends now.
HE'S SO NICE.
SORRY FOR MAKING THAT ASSUMP-TION.
THAT PROBABLY DIDN'T HELP YOUR ANXIETY, DID IT?
ARE YOU GOING WITH ANYONE?
THIS IS A FRIENDSHIP WORTH TREASUR-ING!
Oh!
I'M GLAD YOU ASKED!
So what if I've thought about asking him to go to the zoo with me?
Hee hee...
A GIRL'S ALLOWED TO FANTASIZE.

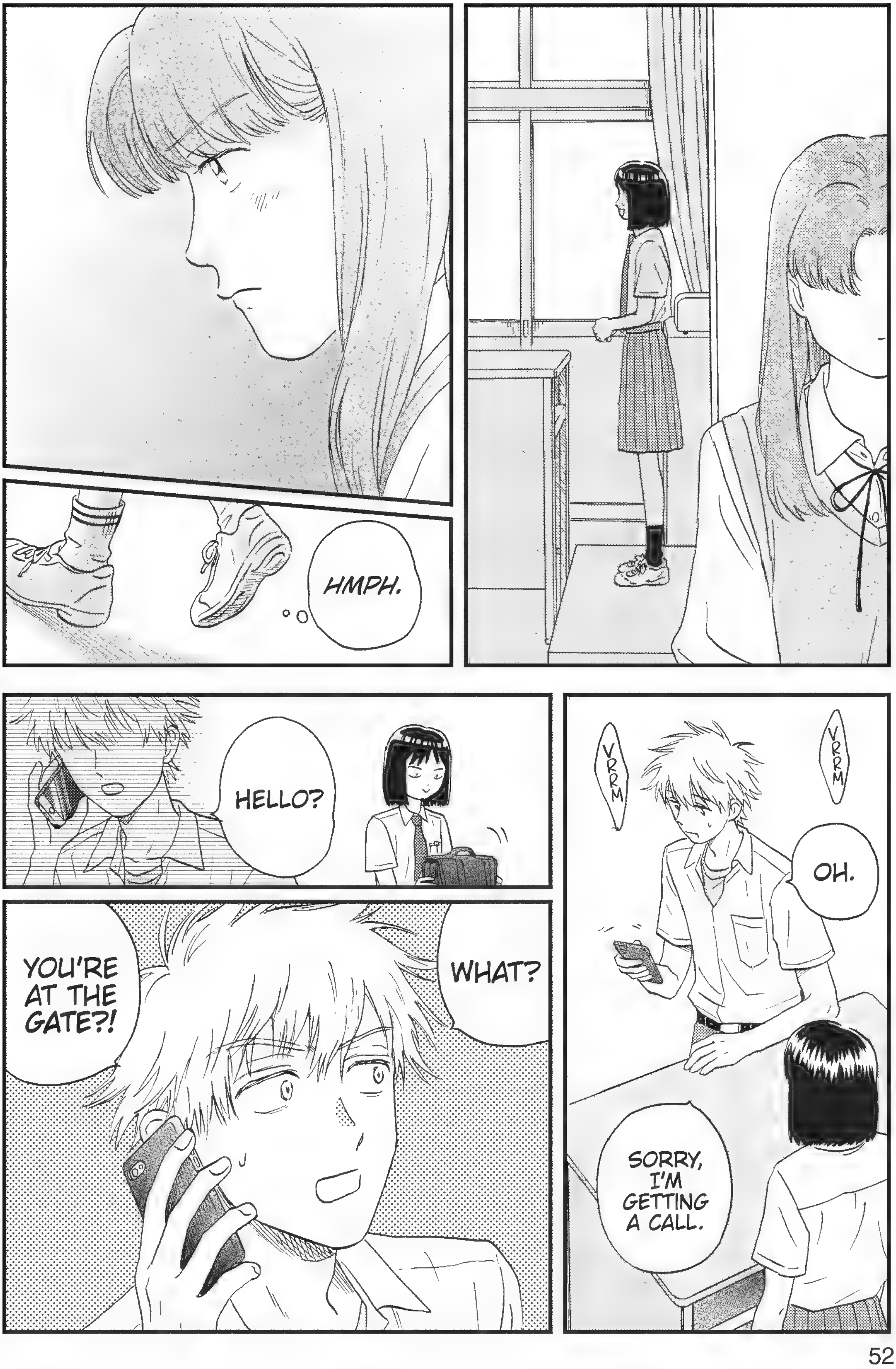

DO YOU WANT TO GET A GROUP TOGETHER?
DO YOU WANT TO GO TOGETHER?
Oops.



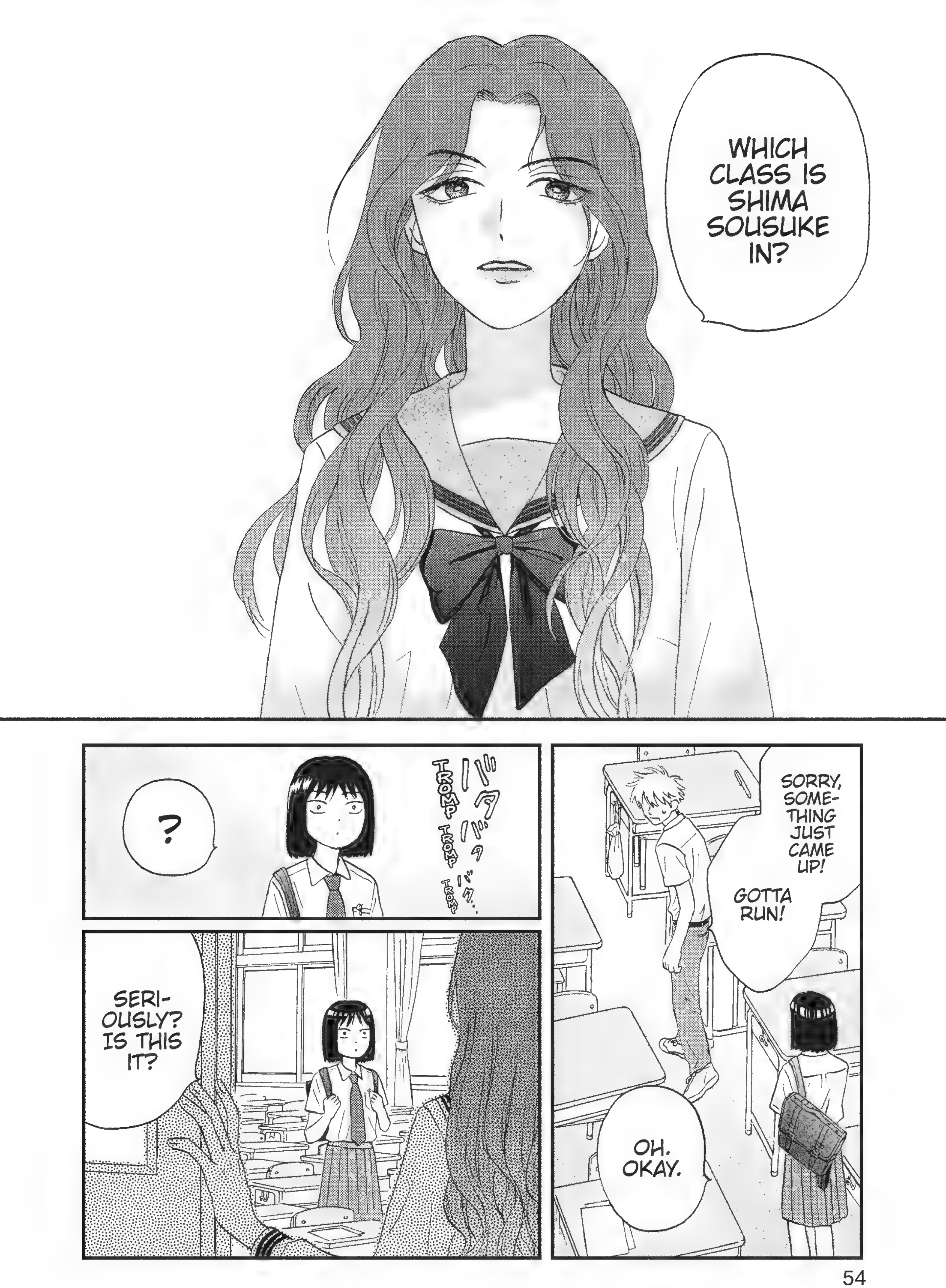
*Obon: A holiday honoring one's ancestors. Usually held in mid to late August over three days.


IT'S EASIER TO GET AROUND IN A SMALLER GROUP. TWO, THREE PEOPLE MAX.
Sure...
HOW ABOUT THURSDAY OR FRIDAY THE WEEK AFTER NEXT?
HE'S SO CASUAL.
He's always so tuned in to what girls are thinking.
But my...
"Wait, isn't this a date?" aura...
That he can't read?
Thursday or Friday.
Okay. How about...
Thurs-day?
When he looks at me...
100% Friend.
All Natural Made in Ishikawa Prefecture
Do you want to hang out togeth-er?
Sounds good to me!
Is that what he sees?


Even if he does...
I'VE NEVER SEEN A PANDA BEFORE, EITHER.
WHAT, REALLY?
Even then...
I THOUGHT EVERYONE IN TOKYO HAD SEEN ONE!
Aha ha!
OF COURSE NOT!
I'M SO HAPPY HE WANTS TO GO PLACES WITH ME!

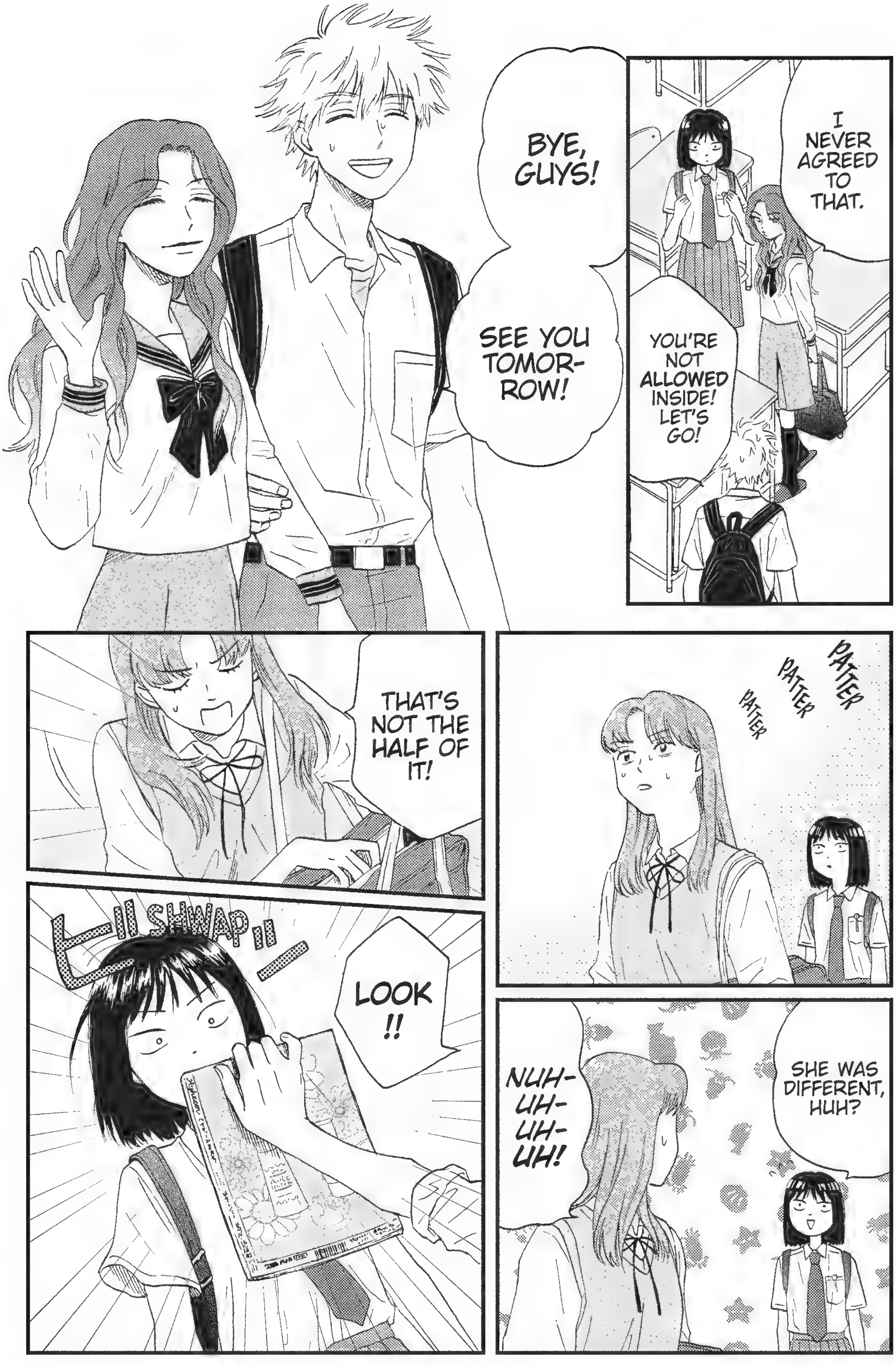

HMPH.
VRRM
VRRM
OH.
SORRY, I'M GETTING A CALL.
HELLO?
WHAT?
YOU'RE AT THE GATE?!


MM-HM.
I WANTED TO SEE WHERE YOU WENT TO SCHOOL.
OH, COME ON. ONE PEEK WON'T HURT.
YEAH, YEAH. WHATEVER. I SEE SOMEONE NOW. I'LL JUST ASK HER.
HEY! HEY THERE.


WHICH CLASS IS SHIMA SOUSUKE IN?
SORRY, SOMETHING JUST CAME UP!
GOTTA RUN!
OH. OKAY.
?
TROMP TROMP TROMP
SERIOUSLY? IS THIS IT?


IT'S SO AVERAGE.
SHAKY BOW
IS...
IS THIS A FRIEND OF YOURS, MIKA-CHAN...?


THAT MAKES *PERFECT* SENSE.
PFF!
RIRIKA!
THERE YOU ARE!
SCRAMBLE
I TOLD YOU TO WAIT AT THE GATE!


I NEVER AGREED TO THAT.
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE! LET'S GO!
BYE, GUYS!
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
PATTER
PATTER
PATTER
THAT'S NOT THE HALF OF IT!
SHE WAS DIFFERENT, HUH?
NUH-UH-UH-UH!
SHWAP!!
LOOK!!


8
August
590yen
The Youngest HT Cover Girl in History!
Saijou Ririka's Two-Week Makeovers
Get the perfect beach body with targeted dieting!♡
Beat the summer heat with cool hairstyles and makeup looks
Be the Queen you want to be this summer!
Score Perfect Attendance This Summer Break with These Trendy, Affordable Pieces♡
A Sneak Peek at a real HT Model!
100 of the cutest summer outfits
......
...?!
THAT AIN'T THE GAL WE JUST SAW, WERE IT?!
SURE "WERE"!

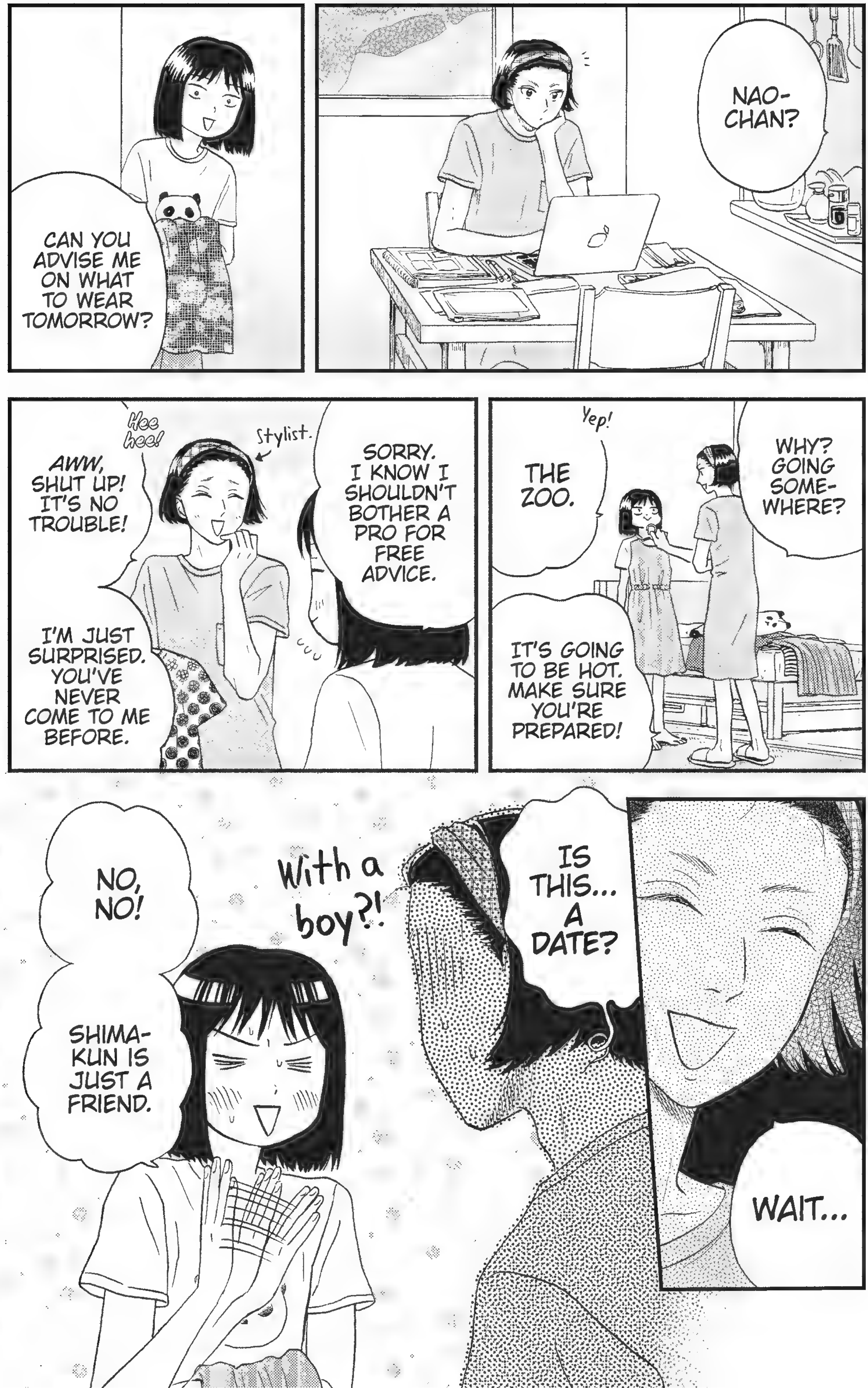
Scene ⑬ END



Scene ⑭ A Blistering-Hot Zoo


SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
WHICH CLASS IS SHIMA SOUSUKE IN?
SORRY ABOUT THAT, GUYS.
RIRIKA AND I KIND OF GREW UP TOGETHER.
BUT SHE'S A MODEL, AND YOU KNOW HOW PEOPLE TALK...
SO COULD YOU KEEP IT A SECRET THAT SHE WAS HERE?
OKAY! MY LIPS ARE SEALED!
......
You grew up together, and she's just a friend?!
A hottie like her?
Yeeeah, I ain't buyin' it!


SAIJOU RIRIKA... GOT HER START IN CHILD ACTING. HUNH.
IN SIXTH GRADE, SHE WAS... DROWNED IN BAD PRESS FOR DRINKING?!
EWW. TRASHY.
I guess that's why Shima-kun's so chill.
No school kid can compete with a celebrity.
magazines in circulation.
He probably thinks he's hot stuff, hanging around a gorgeous girl like her.
So, he's just another groupie. Go figure.
SOME-HOW...
THAT'S REALLY DISAP-POINTING.


CAN YOU ADVISE ME ON WHAT TO WEAR TOMORROW?
NAO-CHAN?
SORRY. I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BOTHER A PRO FOR FREE ADVICE.
Stylist.
Hee hee!
AWW, SHUT UP! IT'S NO TROUBLE!
I'M JUST SURPRISED. YOU'VE NEVER COME TO ME BEFORE.
WHY? GOING SOME-WHERE?
Yep!
THE ZOO.
IT'S GOING TO BE HOT. MAKE SURE YOU'RE PREPARED!
WAIT...
IS THIS... A DATE?
With a boy?!
NO, NO!
SHIMA-KUN IS JUST A FRIEND.



SQUEE!
Yeah. He's that friend I talk about all the time.
Shima-suke?
??!!
Shima-kun?! As in, Shima-suke?!
Bored now. Bye!
Waaah!
It couldn't hurt to fool around...
with a country girl.
Didn't she say he was a popular Tokyoite?!
My Mitsu is going out with one of them?!
じゃ TA-
ん DA!
っ!
Well? What do you think?
I think you might want to dial back the cute!


MITSUMI-CHAN!
上野駅 公園口
Park Entrance
HIYA.
MORNING, SHIMA-KUN.
I'M WEARING SOMETHING PANDA-THEMED TODAY, TOO.
REALLY? WHAT?
Hey!
YOU'RE WEARING FUMI-CHAN'S PIN!
Hee hee.
YEP. I BROUGHT HER WITH ME.


Really happy.
PANDA SLEEVES!
Raglan sleeves.
YES!
WELL, DO YOU WANT TO GET GOING?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID THAT.
GOD, WHAT AM I DOING?
THEY'RE ACTUALLY HERE.
I was hoping I wouldn't find them.



JOLT
ARE YOU MITSUMI'S FRIEND?
(Nao-chan.)
N-! N-!
NO! I'M TOTALLY HERE ON MY OWN!
BUT I REMEMBERED THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT VISITING UENO ZOO TODAY AND BAM! THERE THEY WERE! WEIRD, HUH? AH HA HA HA!
OH GOD! HE REALLY IS HOT!
THIS IS TOO MUCH!
......
Stranger danger.
AND WHO ARE YOU?
Urk!
HELLO! MITSUMI'S MY NIECE.
Here, my insurance card.
Oh. Thank you.
OHH. SHE HAS AN UNCLE.
I WONDER IF MITSU HAS MENTIONED ME TO HER FRIENDS... HMM.


OOOH!
AWW!
モリ SCRUNCH
モリ SCRUNCH
D'AWW!
I'M SURPRISED WE HAD HER TO OURSELVES SO LONG.
YEAH!
WOW... I ACTUALLY SAW A PANDA.
I feel like I've met a celebrity!
She was snarfin' down that bamboo, huh?
YOU SURE DID~!
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO NEXT?
LET'S SEE... LET'S START HERE AND...
MIN
MIN
MIN
MIIN


HOW ABOUT WE TAKE A TURN, THEN GO TO THE FOOD COURT AND COOL OFF?
It's hot!
GOOD IDEA!
It's huge!


THIS IS GOING DISTRESSINGLY WELL.
ESCORTING HER COMES SO NATURALLY.
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME SHIMASUKE IS THE SCHOOL SUPERSTAR?!
Shima-suke?
WELL... HE IS.
WHAT ARE WE EVEN DOING RIGHT NOW?
Hee hee...
BE BRUTALLY HONEST. WHY DO YOU THINK HE CAME HERE WITH HER?
Mitsu says they're just friends, but I don't know.
HON-ESTLY?
SOME-TIMES EVEN I CAN'T FIGURE HIM OUT.
WHA-HAAAT?!


YOU DON'T THINK HE'S PLAYING WITH MY MITSU'S HEART, DO YOU?!
HE WOULDN'T DO THAT.
EVER.
DO YOU LIKE HIM YOUR-SELF?
NO! I MEAN... I WOULDN'T SAY I *LIKE* HIM!
BUT I WANT A HIGH SCHOOL BOYFRIEND WHO'S REALLY EXTRA!
KLATTER
SHE'LL BE TROUBLE.
PLASTIC
BOTTLES


ACK!
WHEEEW.
KA-TNK
KA-TONK
We're moving!
Hey!
KA-TNK
PSHOOO..
THEY'RE GOING TO SEE US.
SHHH!
YEP.
THAT FEELS NICE, DOESN'T IT?


HUFF...
HUFF...
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
EVEN IF WE TAKE A BREAK, WE'LL STILL BE OVER-HEATED.
I can't think straight.
It must be the heat and my nerves.
KA-TONK
KA-TONK
HEY, MITSUMI-CHAN.
ONCE WE GET OFF, LET'S HIT THE GIFT SHOP AND CALL IT A DAY.


BUT...
WE CAME ALL THIS WAY.
THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER DAY, RIGHT?
And I was...
so excited to come here with him.


RIGHT.
KA-TONK
ゴトン
KA-TONK
ゴトン


"HE'S JUST ANOTHER GROUPIE."
MUTTER
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
I knew that was a lie as soon as I thought it.
I'm the groupie. I thought that if I had a boyfriend all the girls wanted...
it would make me somebody.


WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING.
MONORAIL WEST ENT.
WE'RE *ALL* IDIOTS FOR GOING OUT IN THIS BLISTERING HEAT.
I'M EYEING THAT LITTLE CAFÉ WITH THE DOUHUA MANGO SHAVED ICE.
WANT TO JOIN ME?


BIG SISTER'S TREAT.
After all that walking, the calories won't even count!
YOU--!
Aahh!
YOU'RE NOT HER UNCLE! YOU'RE HER AUNT?!
BIG SISTER!
THIS POUCH IS SO CUTE!
Plus it's got candies inside!
I'LL GET THIS FOR MAHARU.
Kippei likes reptiles, so I'll get him...
THAT'S A LOT OF GIFTS.


DO YOU HAVE ANY SIBLINGS, SHIMA-KUN?
UH... YEAH. A LITTLE BROTHER.
YOUR FAMILY'S PRETTY CLOSE, HUH?
MY AUNT GAVE ME EXTRA SPENDING MONEY.
YEP!
ARE YOU GOING TO GET ANYTHING FOR HIM?
Um...
WE'RE NOT CLOSE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'D WANT.
REALLY? HOW OLD?
HE'S THREE.
AWW! A BABY!


ANYTHING FROM YOU WOULD MAKE HIM HAPPY.
......
AND THIS IS FROM ME!
BING!
ちゃ～ん
REALLY? BUT I DIDN'T GET YOU ANYTHING.
THAT'S OKAY!
IT CAME IN A TWO-PACK, SO IT'S BASICALLY FREE!
SEE?
AREN'T THOSE MEANT FOR COUPLES?


WELL, LET'S GO.
YEP.
MAYBE I'LL USE IT AS A KEYCHAIN.


KEI-CHAN! CLEAN UP YOUR TOYS!
'KAY.
OH.



HUH?
ON SECOND THOUGHT, YOU CAN HAVE THIS.
I'M PRETTY SURE...
MY LITTLE BROTHER'S BEEN HERE ALREADY.
I just remem-bered.


THAT DOESN'T MATTER, DOES IT?
HE'D BE HAPPY BECAUSE IT CAME FROM YOU.
OF COURSE HE WOULD!!
I DUNNO.
WOULD HE?


YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT.


NEXT TIME, LET'S COME WHEN IT'S COOLER!
AGREEED!
MM-MM! ♡
Nummy! ♡
OH NO! I FORGOT TO TAKE A PICTURE!
Ack!
I WAS GOING TO INSTA MINE, TOO!
Scene ⑭ END

Scene ⑮ A Complicated Summer Break



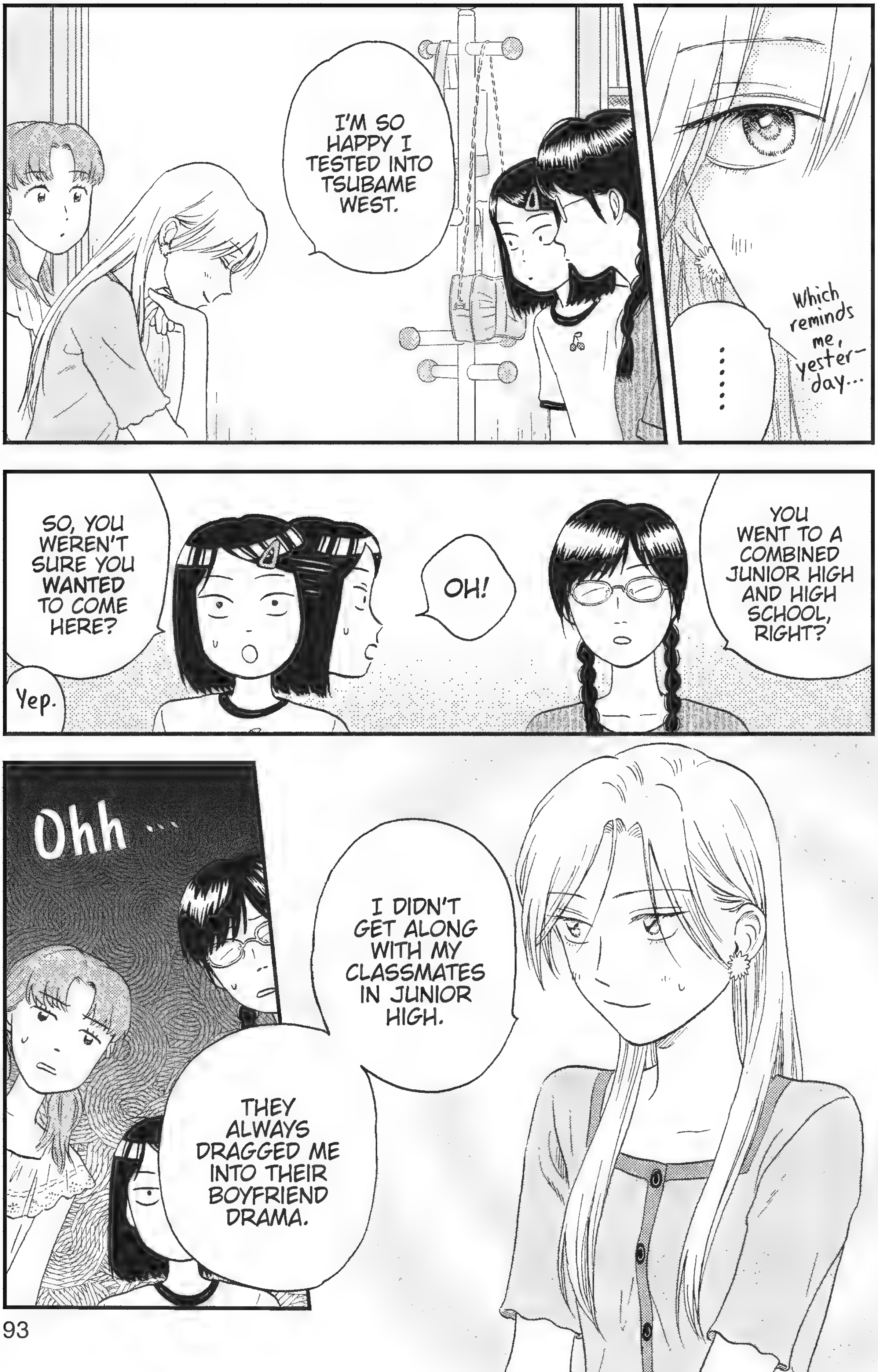

MIIN
MIN
MIN
THANKS FOR HAVING US!
We're having a slumber party.
Yuzu-chan's place became unavailable at the last minute...
Sorry, guys. Some relatives are crashing here...
Uh-oh.~
It is what it is.
WE ONLY HAVE ONE EXTRA FUTON.
HA HA HA!
BUT YOU KIDS ARE YOUNG! SQUEEZE IN!
so Nao-chan gave us permission to stay here instead!
Thank you!
COME ON IIIN!


AND DON'T FORGET TO TELL THEM THAT YOUR *AUNT* IS BIOLOGICALLY MALE.
I'D BE DEVASTATED IF THAT CAUGHT THEM BY SURPRISE.
Okay——!
THANK YOU, GIRLS, FOR TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF MITSUMI!
Ooh!
THANK YOU, NAO-SAN.
Don't mention it.
YOU MUST'VE BEEN HOT, TRUDGING AROUND OUTSIDE.
OH NO, YOU MUSTN'T SIT ON THE FLOOR! HERE, TAKE THIS CUSHION.
Thank you very much.
MITSU, THERE'S PUDDING IN THE FRIDGE.
Set it out for every-one later.
WILL DO.


OKAY, HAVE FUN, GIRLS. ♡
SMILE
CLICK
....
SHE'S REALLY... NICE, MITSUMI. YOUR AUNT.
Didn't she smell great?
Mm-hm.
Mm!
ISN'T SHE?
......
NAO-CHAN'S A STYLIST.
NO WAY! THAT'S SO COOL!
HER MOUTH LOOKS JUST LIKE YOURS.
THEY'RE SO SWEET!
I'm so happy for you, Mitsu.

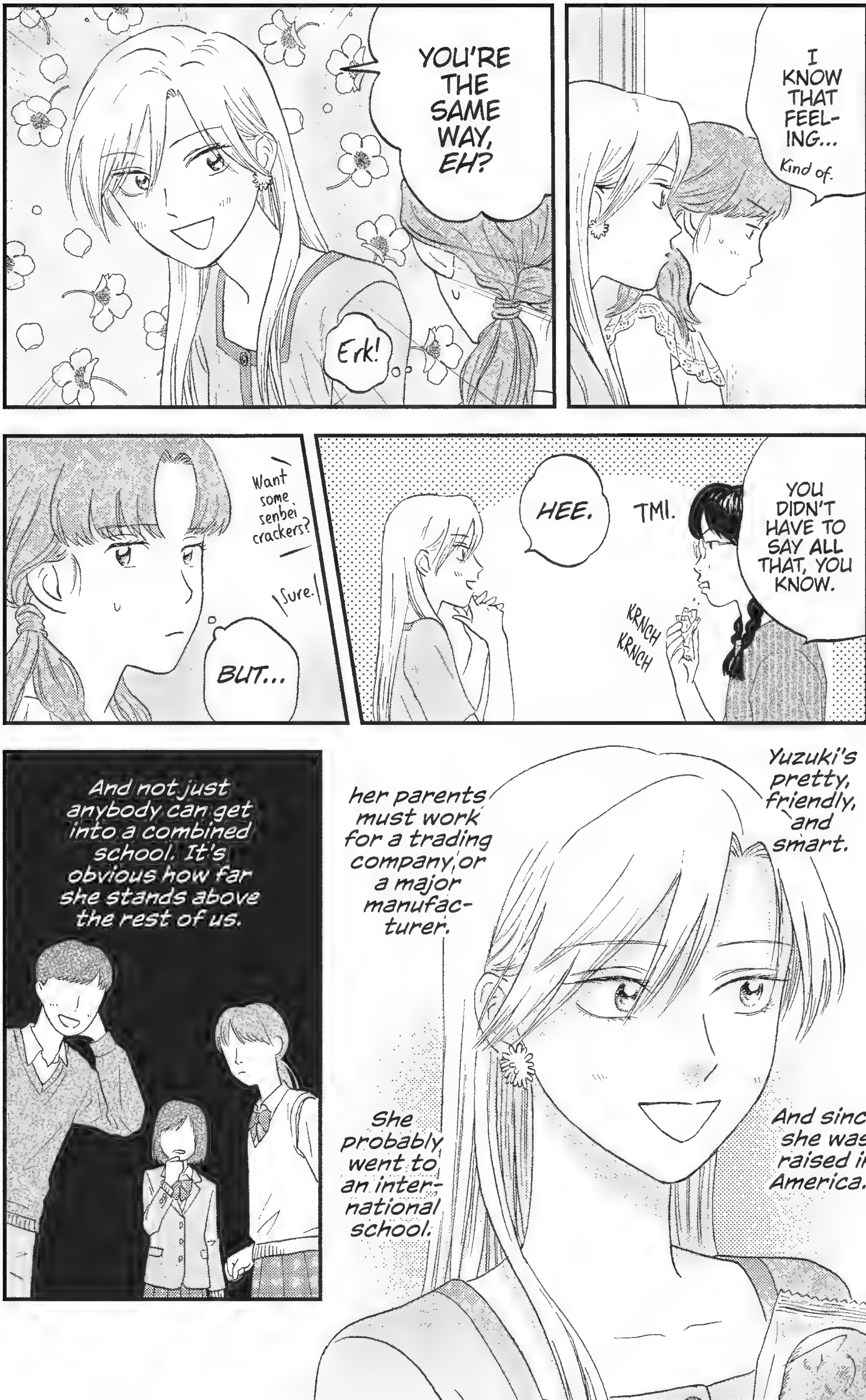

THIS TRANSLATION DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT TO ME.
IT'S A SPECIAL CASE. YOU SEE...
WE'VE MADE A LOT OF PROGRESS, EH?
WANT TO TAKE A BREAK?
I'M DONE!
YOUR BLOUSE IS SUPER CUTE, MIKA. WHERE'D YOU GET IT?
Thanks.
I PICKED IT UP AT ZU.
Really?
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY CARRIED STUFF LIKE THAT!
I WISH I COULD WEAR LACE.
Huh?
YOU COULD WEAR ANYTHING, YUZUKI!
I'VE BEEN TOLD IT DOESN'T FIT MY IMAGE.
OHH.
HOW ABOUT THIS? THE COLOR ISN'T TOO GIRLY.
OOH! THAT COULD BE CUTE!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO WEAR CHINO PANTS.
YOU TOTALLY SHOULD!
I found it on Insta.
I'll throw it a like.
KRNCH
KRNCH
Ooh!
Oh!
FASHION TALK?
I CAN KEEP UP WITH THAT!


NO, NO. BEIGE IS NOT MY COLOR.
Mm-hmm...
MIKA-CHAN.
YOU'RE A BLUE BASE, RIGHT?
BFFT!!
Kinda
Even Mitsumi Knows These Fashion Buzzwords
Blue Base (Cool skin tone)
Blue-tinged skin. Complemented by pink, purple, etc.
Yellow Base (Warm skin tone)
Golden-tinged skin. Complemented by orange, beige, etc.
These terms can help you find the right makeup and clothes for you!
I'M...
A YELLOW BASE.
MMRF!
STOP THAT!
AH HA HA HA HA!
OMIGAWD! DON'T SUDDENLY USE FASHION BUZZ-WORDS ON ME!
WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT, MITSUMI?!
FROM NAO-CHAN.
OH GOSH.
YOU MELT MY HEART.
Blueberry?


I'M SO HAPPY I TESTED INTO TSUBAME WEST.
......
Which reminds me, yesterday...
YOU WENT TO A COMBINED JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?
OH!
SO, YOU WEREN'T SURE YOU WANTED TO COME HERE?
Yep.
I DIDN'T GET ALONG WITH MY CLASSMATES IN JUNIOR HIGH.
THEY ALWAYS DRAGGED ME INTO THEIR BOYFRIEND DRAMA.
Ohh...


I WAS SO BUSY TRYING TO FIT IN THAT I COULDN'T TELL WHAT I LIKED ANYMORE.
BY THE TIME I REALIZED I WASN'T VIBING WITH THEM, IT WAS TOO LATE.
I REALIZED I NEVER SHOULD HAVE PUT UP WITH IT.
I TOLD MYSELF THAT NEXT TIME, I'D SPEAK MY MIND.
BRISTLE
But then...
I BECAME SO TENSE, SO DETERMINED NOT TO BE MESSED WITH...
KRUNCH
I WAS UNAP-PROACH-ABLE. RIGHT?
....


SO YOU HAD A HIGH SCHOOL REBRAND-ING.
I WOULDN'T CALL IT THAT! NOT REALLY!
ALL I DID WAS PIERCE MY EARS!
I didn't go that far!
I DID REALIZE I HAD TO RELAX, THOUGH.
I WAS LIKE, "YOU KNOW WHAT? THIS IS FINE."
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED FRIENDS I COULD TALK TO AND FEEL NATURAL.
THAT'S WHY I LIKE YOU GUYS.



YOU'RE THE SAME WAY, EH?
Erk!
I KNOW THAT FEEL-ING...
Kind of.
Want some senbei crackers?
Sure.
BUT...
HEE.
TMI.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY ALL THAT, YOU KNOW.
KRNCH KRNCH
Yuzuki's pretty, friendly, and smart.
her parents must work for a trading company or a major manufac-turer.
And not just anybody can get into a combined school. It's obvious how far she stands above the rest of us.
And since she was raised in America...
She probably went to an inter-national school.


I can kind of see why the other girls felt they could pick on "the rich kid" a bit.
And...
the reason I can see that...
is that I could've treated her badly, too.
MUKAI!
HUH?!


YOU'RE TAKING SUMMER CLASSES, TOO?!
YEP.
GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO AT HOME.
RIGHT... HIS FAMILY SITCH IS KINDA COMPLICATED.
SORRY.
YOU HERE FOR HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS?
YEAH.
KYA!
KYA!
Wow, really?
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO LIKE IT, THOUGH.
If you aren't here to learn, then don't come at all!


コン KNOCK
コン KNOCK
わい CHATTER
わい CHATTER
I'M HEADING OUT, LADIES.
ガチャ KACHAK
I'M STAYING THE NIGHT AT A FRIEND'S AFTER THE EXHIBITION...
SO MAKE YOURSELVES CURRY FOR DINNER.
Turn off the stove and lock the doors before bed!
Okay!
THANKS, NAO-CHAN.
Oh!
MIKA-CHAN, ISN'T IT TIME FOR *YOU* TO GO, TOO?!
HUH?


What?
IS SHE LEAVING?
SHE'S MEETING HER FAMILY FOR DINNER.
Yep.
But it's so early!
OH RIGHT, I FORGOT ABOUT THAT.
SEE YA LATER.
OH...
GUESS I'D BETTER HEAD OUT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
Bye.
WHRRM
WHRRM
....
....
LET ME GUESS. THERE'S NO DINNER TONIGHT, IS THERE?
MM-HM. I DIDN'T THINK SO.


BUT...
I KNOW THESE THINGS END UP WITH EVERYONE TALKING ABOUT BOYS.
IT'D BE AWKWARD.
Oho.
AND SHE CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF MITSU TALKING ABOUT SHIMASUKE.
She's got it bad, all right.
"I WANT A HIGH SCHOOL BOYFRIEND WHO'S REALLY EXTRA!"
I wonder why she thought she had to deny it.
The blouse she's wearing...
and her accessory game... She keeps up with fashion.
And if she got into Tsubame West, she's a hard worker.
Yet she lacks confidence and fears getting hurt.



That sounds awfully familiar.
LOOK, MIKIE.
"MIKIE" ?!
IF THERE'S EVEN A TINY PART OF YOU THAT WANTS TO STAY...
CALL MITSU AND TELL HER YOU GOT THE DATE WRONG FOR YOUR FAMILY DINNER.

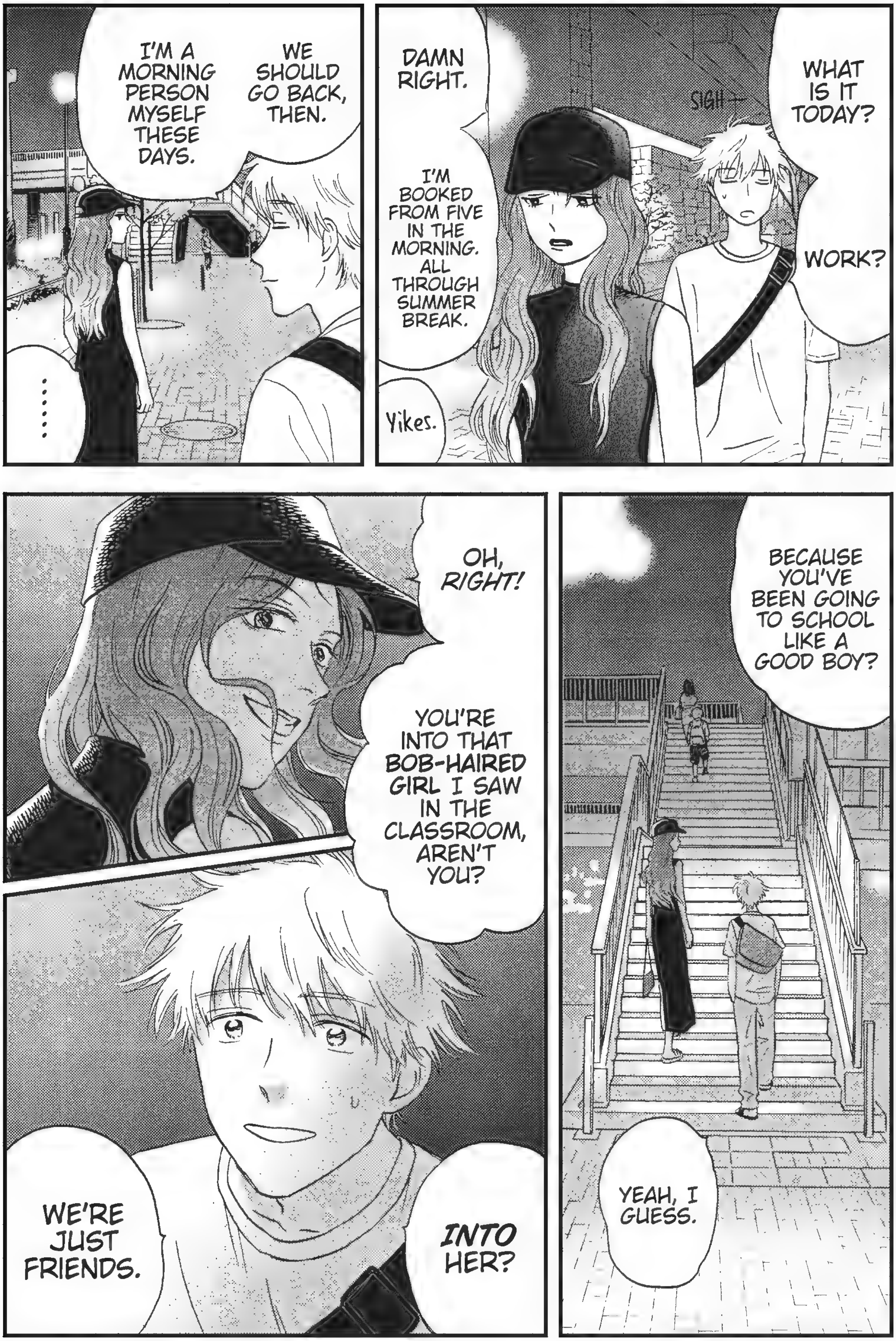


IT'S CUTE TO BE EMBARRASSED.
N--
NO! THAT'S EMBARRASSING.
AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
BUT REAL FRIENDS LIKE THESE DON'T COME AROUND TOO OFTEN IN LIFE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SUCH A SCARED LITTLE MOUSE...

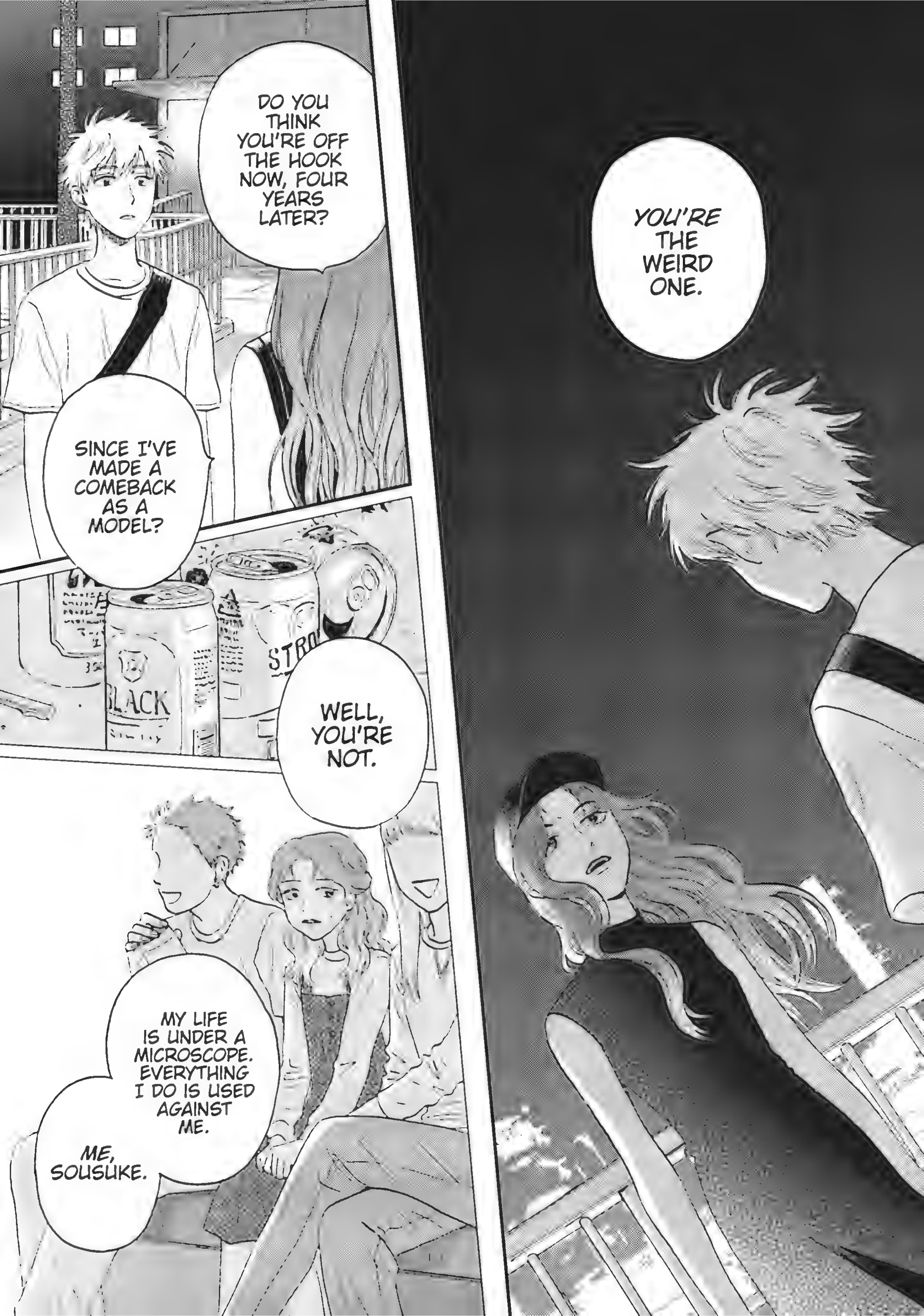

WANNA GET SOME-THING TO EAT?
YEAH, SURE.
LET ME CALL HOME FIRST.
OKAY.
Shibuya. The usual place.
HEY, MOM?
MY FRIEND'S ASKING IF I CAN EAT OUT WITH HIM TONIGHT.
SORRY, MUKAI. I CAN'T AFTER ALL.
YEAH. SO IF DINNER'S NOT READY YET, THEN--
WHAT?!


DUDE...
WHAT? YOU AREN'T EATING DINNER WITH US?
DOOM...
OH, I'LL EAT IT.
I'LL EAT THE HELL OUT OF IT.
HEY.


WE *PROMISED* WE WOULDN'T MEET UP ALONE.
TOUGH. COME ON.
WHERE'S EVERY-ONE ELSE?
I DIDN'T INVITE THEM.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
FOR A WALK.
AND THEN? WHO KNOWS.
RIRIKA...
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY.


WHAT IS IT TODAY?
SIGH
WORK?
DAMN RIGHT.
I'M BOOKED FROM FIVE IN THE MORNING. ALL THROUGH SUMMER BREAK.
Yikes.
WE SHOULD GO BACK, THEN.
I'M A MORNING PERSON MYSELF THESE DAYS.
......
BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN GOING TO SCHOOL LIKE A GOOD BOY?
YEAH, I GUESS.
OH, *RIGHT!*
YOU'RE INTO THAT BOB-HAIRED GIRL I SAW IN THE CLASSROOM, AREN'T YOU?
INTO HER?
WE'RE JUST FRIENDS.


Ah ha ha! OF COURSE YOU ARE.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SUCKER FOR STRAY ANIMALS.
DON'T TALK ABOUT MY FRIEND LIKE THAT.

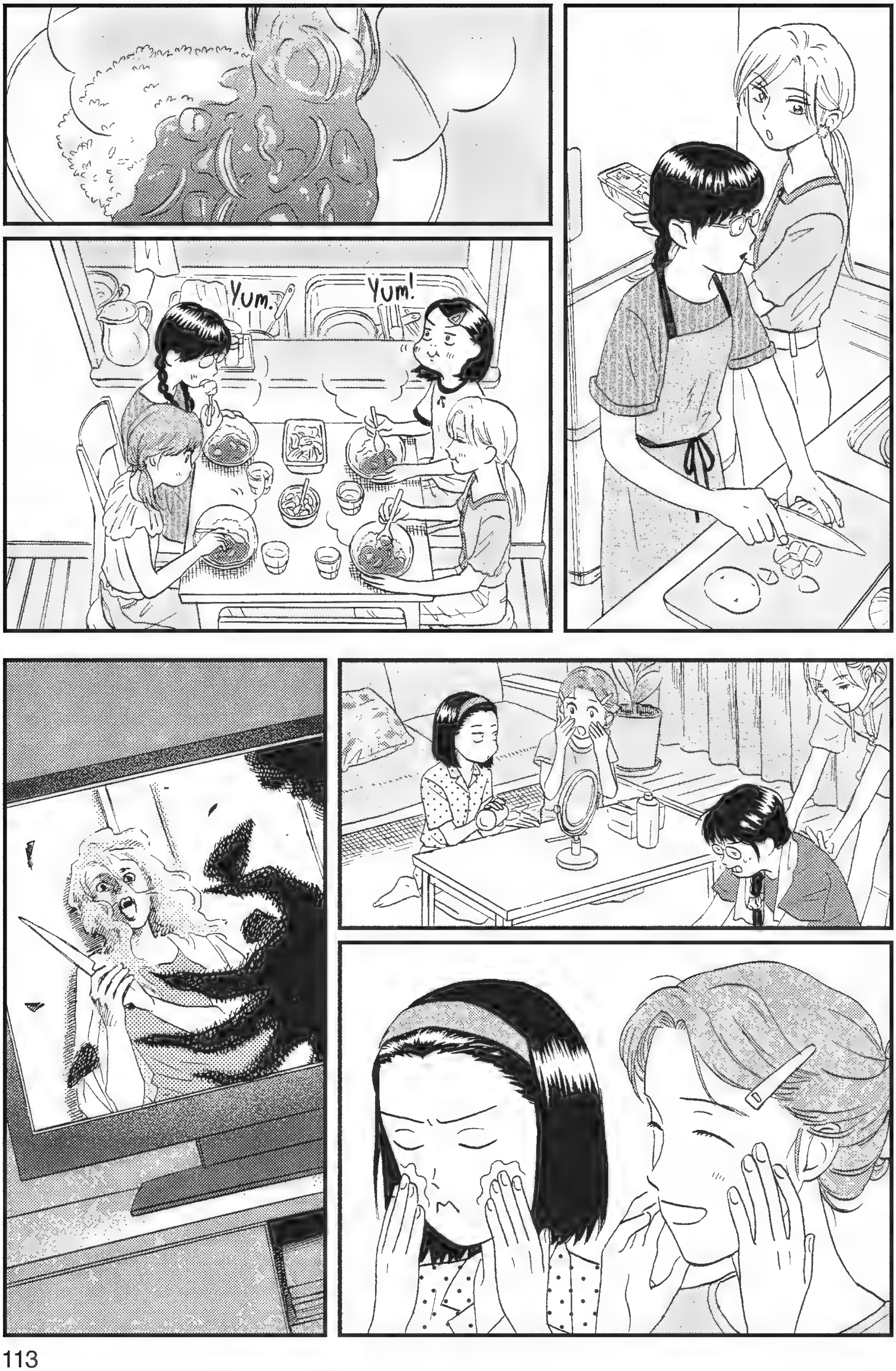


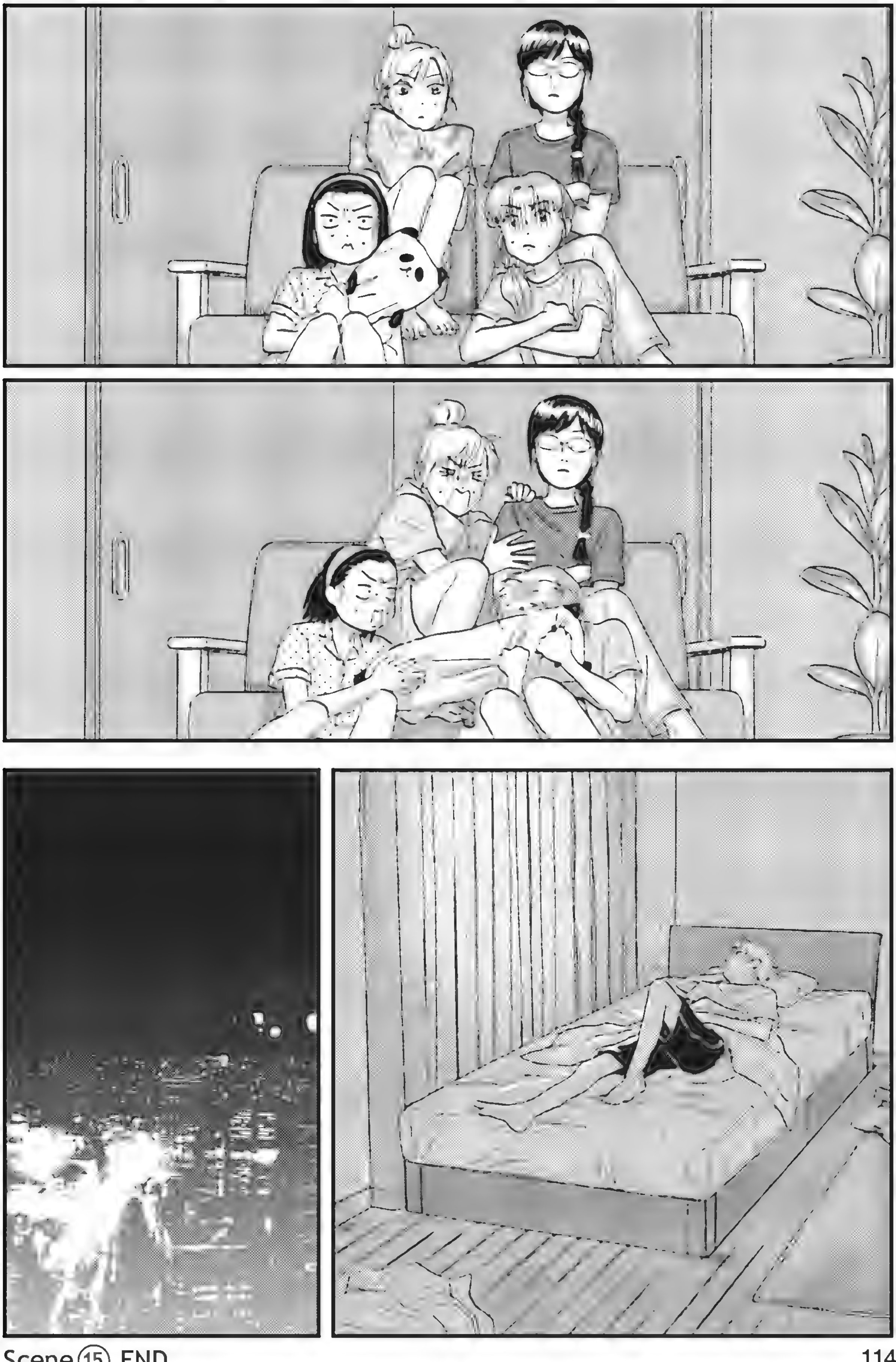
YOU'RE THE WEIRD ONE.
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK NOW, FOUR YEARS LATER?
SINCE I'VE MADE A COMEBACK AS A MODEL?
WELL, YOU'RE NOT.
MY LIFE IS UNDER A MICROSCOPE. EVERYTHING I DO IS USED AGAINST ME.
ME, SOUSUKE.


BECAUSE I JUST *HAD* TO FOLLOW YOUR LEAD.
SO DON'T THINK YOU GET TO ENJOY HIGH SCHOOL. BECAUSE I DIDN'T.


I'M SORRY.
WHAT-EVER.
TAKE ME HOME.
AND HOLD MY HAND.


LIKE YOU DID WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
UH...
Oh, for crying out loud
NOT LIKE THAT!

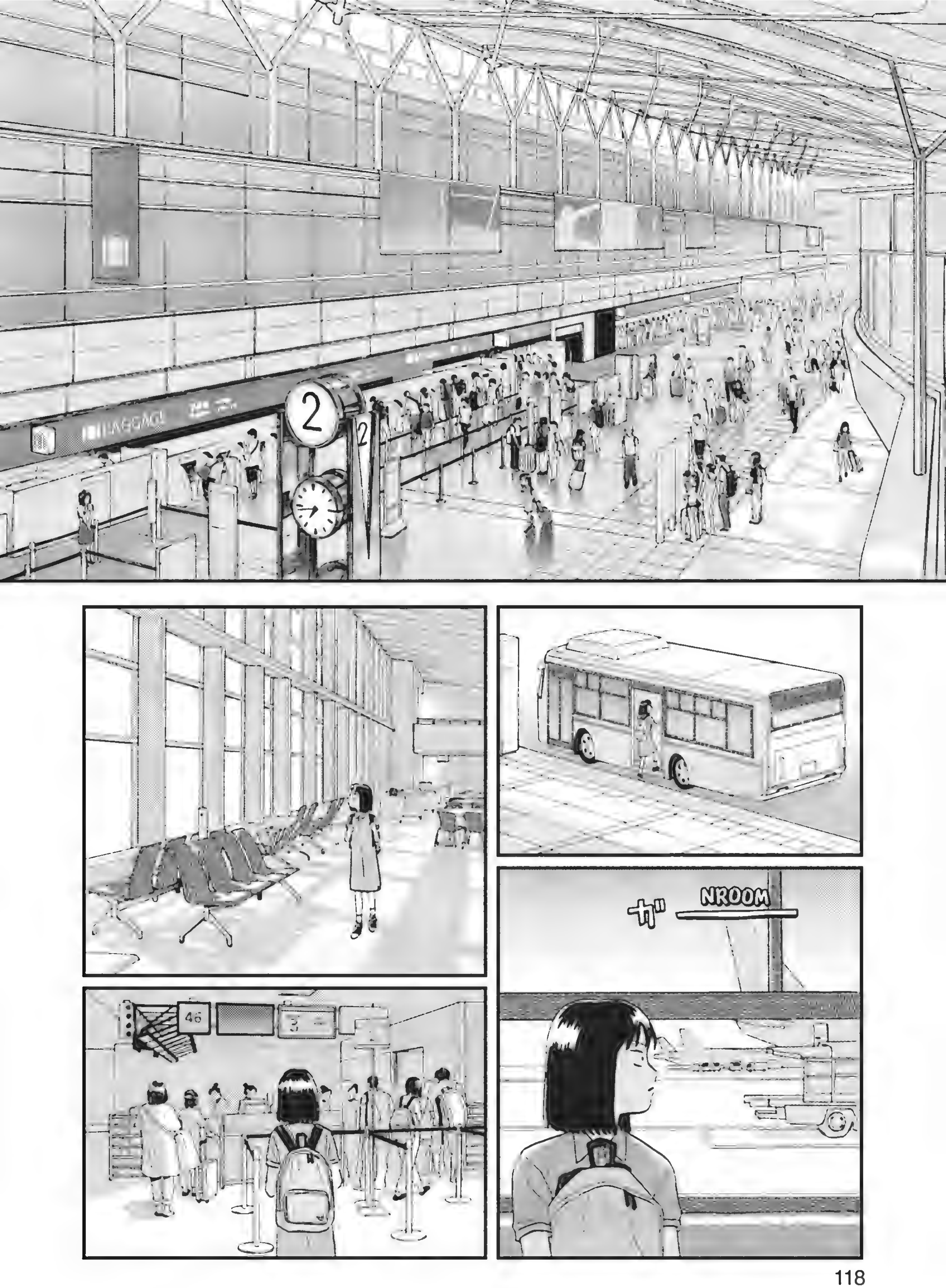

Yum!
Yum.

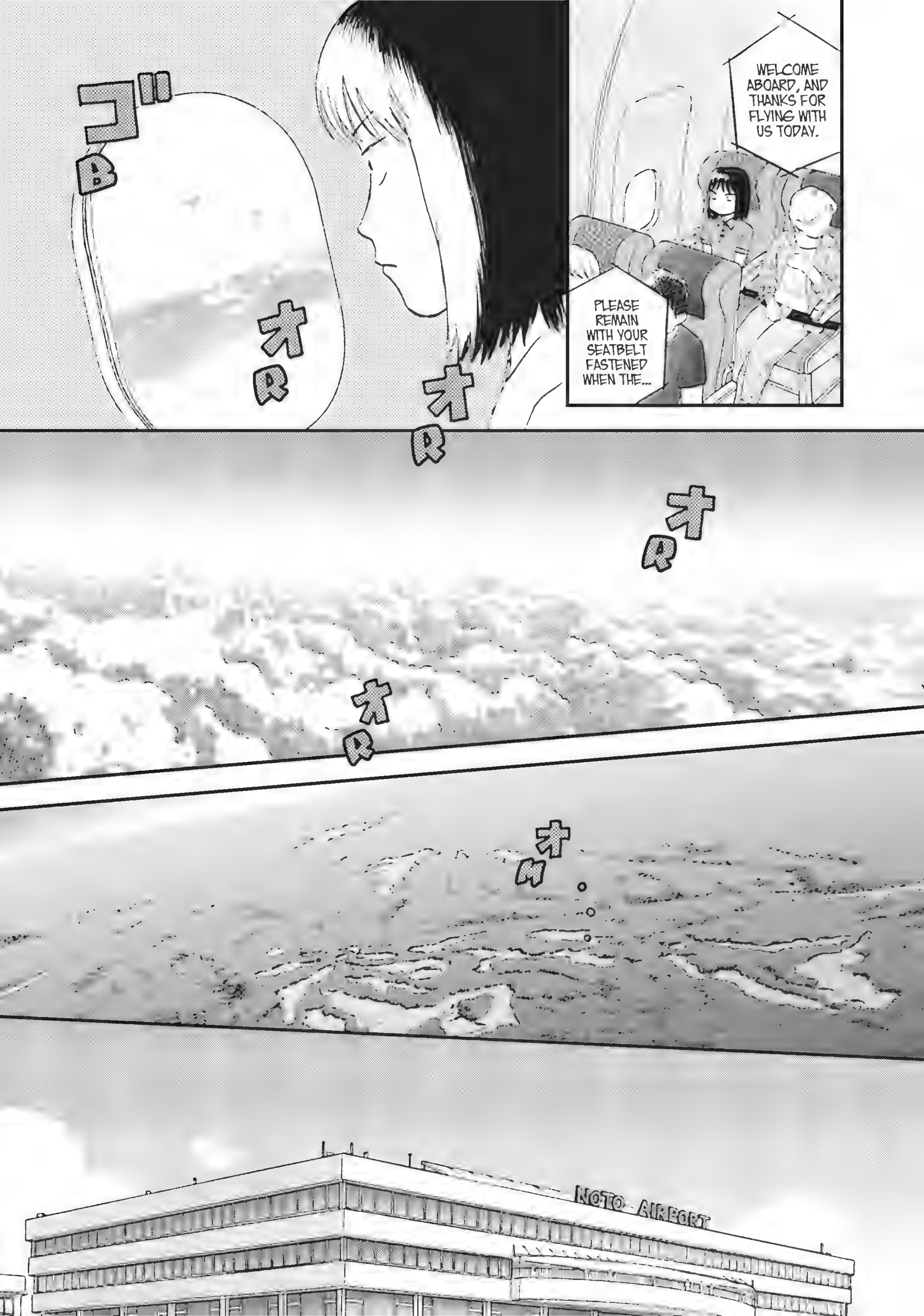



Scene ⑯ A Drowsy Homecoming


ピッ
BEEP
ピピッ
BEEP BEEP
ピ。
BEEP
TAK!
ムクッ
ARISE
SUNDAY MORNING


NAO-CHAN.
MMNGH... LEAVING ALREADY?
YEAH. I'LL SEE YOU SOON.
You can stay in bed.
GOT ALL OF YOUR GIFTS?
YEP.
GIVE MY LOVE TO EVERYONE AT HOME.
I WILL.
KA-TNK
KA-TONK


ガ
NROOM


WELCOME ABOARD, AND THANKS FOR FLYING WITH US TODAY.
PLEASE REMAIN WITH YOUR SEATBELT FASTENED WHEN THE...
ゴ B
オ R
オ R
オ R
オ R
オ M
NOTO AIRPORT


ガヤ CHATTER
ガヤ CHATTER
PLEASE TAKE ALL YOUR BELONGINGS AS YOU...
Phew.



I THINK I SEEN HER!
Hey! NEE-CHAAAN!!
OH!
WHUZ SHE DOIN'?
PUTTIN' ON BIG CITY AIRS THANKS T' HER LONG TIME AWAY.
AH HA HA HA!
FOUR MONTHS AIN'T *THAT* LONG, YA SILLY GOOSE!
HEE HEE.
I'LL GRAB YER SUIT-CASE!
HEE HEE HEE.


VROOM
REMEMBER HOW THERE WEREN'T NO CORN IN YOUR LAST CARE PACKAGE?
OH, RIGHT.
WE HAD SO MUCH RAIN THIS YEAR, WE COULDN'T GROW NOTHING DECENT!
AND WITH ALL THE GOSH-DARN CIVETS, WE MAY JUST BE SKIPPIN' CORN NEXT YEAR.
RATTLE
WE'RE HOME!
WOOF!
WOOF!
GRANNY! NEECHAN'S HOME!



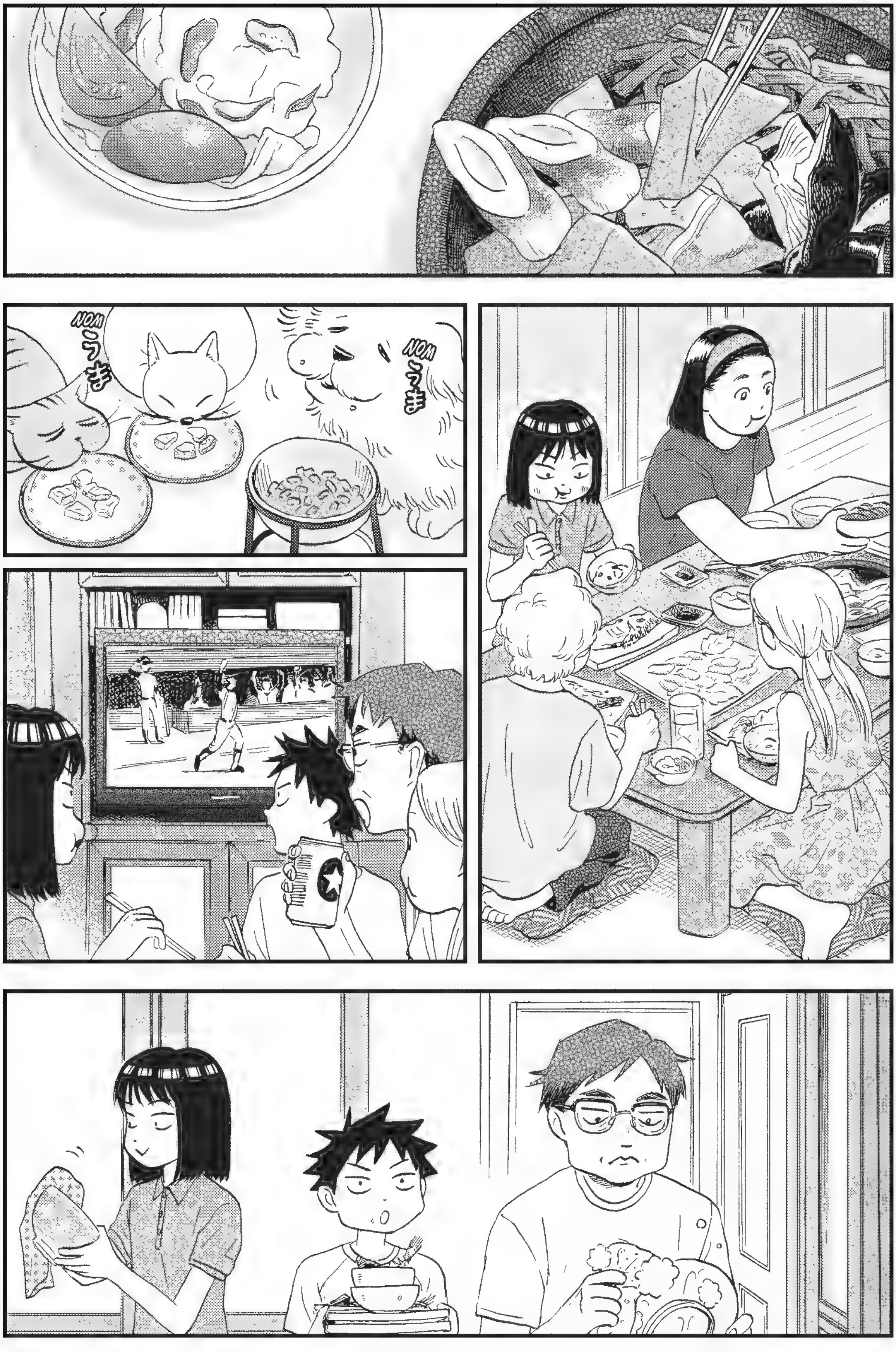
*Yokan: a dessert made of red bean paste, sugar, and agar. Mizu means it has higher water content.

*Sekihan: red beans and rice. Often served on special occasions.


HEARD YOU'D BE BACK. THOUGHT I'D MAKE YOU SOMETHING SPECIAL.
SEKIHAN!
AWW!
YOU DIDN'T HAFTA.
I'M JUST FIBBIN'.
Sekihan's my favorite.
YER JUST AN EXCUSE TO EAT IT MYSELF.
HEE HEE.
I'LL THROW A TAD MORE WATER ON TOP...
AND STEAM IT ANOTHER TEN MINUTES OR SO.
SPLISH
SPLISH
AH HA.
I'LL SET A TIMER AND KEEP AN EYE ON IT.
Hmm!
DIDN'T KNOW THOSE LI'L DOODADS COULD DO THAT.
Fancy that.
IT'S REAL HANDY!
I'LL CHECK ON MY TOMATERS.
OKAY.
THEM SKEETERS ARE GONNA EAT UP YOUR LEGS, MISSY.


FIRST SERVING GOES TO THE GODS AND BUDDHA.
GO TAKE THAT TO THE TABLE.
M'KAY.
トトタ TP
トトタ TP
ちょい SNAG
MMF! ほふ
HEY! THAT'S RUDE!
MNFF! はふ
はふ MNFF
THE RUDENESS MAKES IT TASTE BETTER.


SEA BREAM SASHIMI!
WE PICKED IT UP FRESH THIS MORNING.
OOH!
MOM AND DAD WERE BOUNCIN' OFF THE WALLS TRYIN' TO NOODLE OUT WHAT TO GET FOR YA!
WE'VE BEEN FEASTING AAALL AFTER-NOON!
YOU BETCHA!


NOM
うま
NOM
うま


BRRRRM
NEECHAN.
YER PHONE'S RINGING.
BRRRM
BRRRM
NGUH?
HELLO?


MITSUMI-CHAN!
FUMI!
IT'S FUMIIII!!
Ah ha ha!
IT'S MITSUMI-CHAAAN!


WELL, GAWSH, I DIDN'T THINK I'D MEET UP WITH Y'ALL RIGHT AWAY!
THE GANG'S WAITING FOR US IN FRONT OF THE SHRINE.
AND I WUZ JUST THINKIN' OF ASKIN' SOMEBODY TO PICK UP SOME BIG OL' FIREWORKS TOMORROW, DON'TCHA KNOW!
....
YUKKO'S DAD BROUGHT EVERYONE WHO LIVED FAR AWAY.
YA DON'T SAY!
HE'S YACKIN' WITH MY PAW RIGHT NOW.
HEY, MITSUMI-CHAN?
HM?


I'M...GOIN' OUT WITH THAT BOY I TOLD YOU ABOUT BEFORE.
WHA--?!
SINCE WHEN? WHEN?
HUFF! PUFF!
J-JUST BEFORE SUMMER BREAK.
Squee~~!
YOU ARE?! I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU!
Hee hee.
THANKS... BUT SHUSH! I DON'T WANT ALL IKAJIMA T' KNOW!

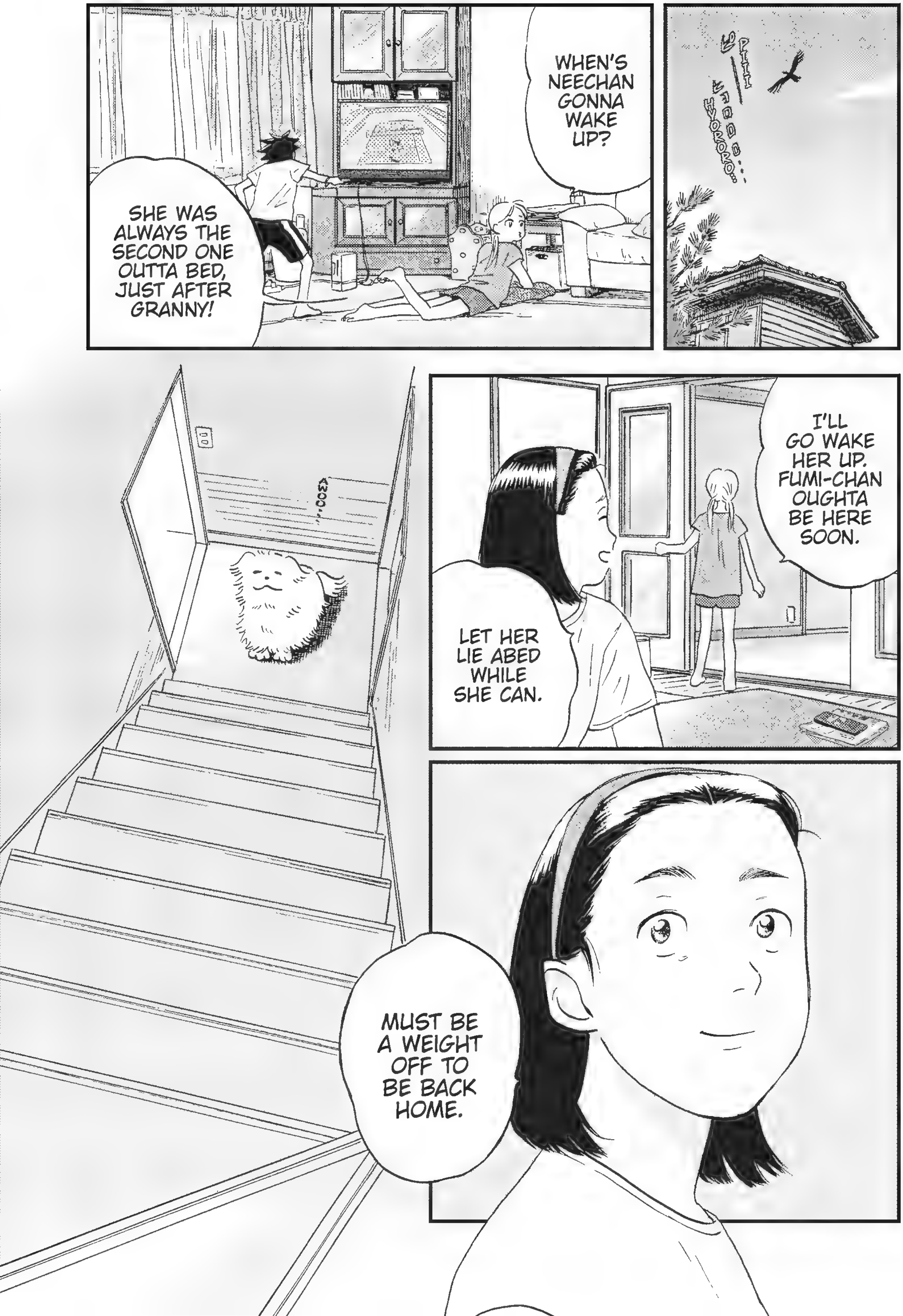

DO THE OTHERS KNOW?
NOT YET.
Yamada-sensei was right!
OHH!
I KNEW I WOULDN'T SEE HIM FER A BIT ONCE SUMMER STARTED, SO I ASKED FER HIS CONTACT INFO...
WE STARTED CHATTIN', AND HERE WE ARE.
I WANTED YOU T' BE THE FIRST ONE I TOLD.


HAVE YOU GOTTEN PRETTIER LATELY, FUMI-SAN?
OH, LAWS!
I DUNNO, MITSUMI-CHAN. HAVE YOU?
HUH?
HEY, SHE'S HERE!
MITSUMI!!!
HOW'VE YA BEEN? GOOD?
YEAH!
YOU AIN'T CHANGED A BIT!
ATSUI
NAH, I'M CLASSIER NOW.
YER JUST NOT REFINED ENOUGH T' SEE IT, TACCHAN.
YOU'VE HAD THAT T-SHIRT SINCE WE WERE IN JUNIOR HIGH.


HERE WE GO!
STAND BACK!
OOOH!
POP POP
POP
HEY, MITSUMI-CHAN.
You're slippin' back into our accent.
YOU ALWAYS USTA MAKE US TALK T' YOU IN STANDARD JAPANESE FER PRACTICE. DON'TCHA NEED THAT NO MORE?
WELP...


I MADE SOME FRIENDS WHO WON'T TEASE ME FER IT...
SO I'M ALL RIGHT.
Ah ha ha!
Y'ALL, THERE'S A ROCKET IN HERE!
NO WAY. REALLY?!
ALL RIIIGHT! LET'S LIGHT IT UP!

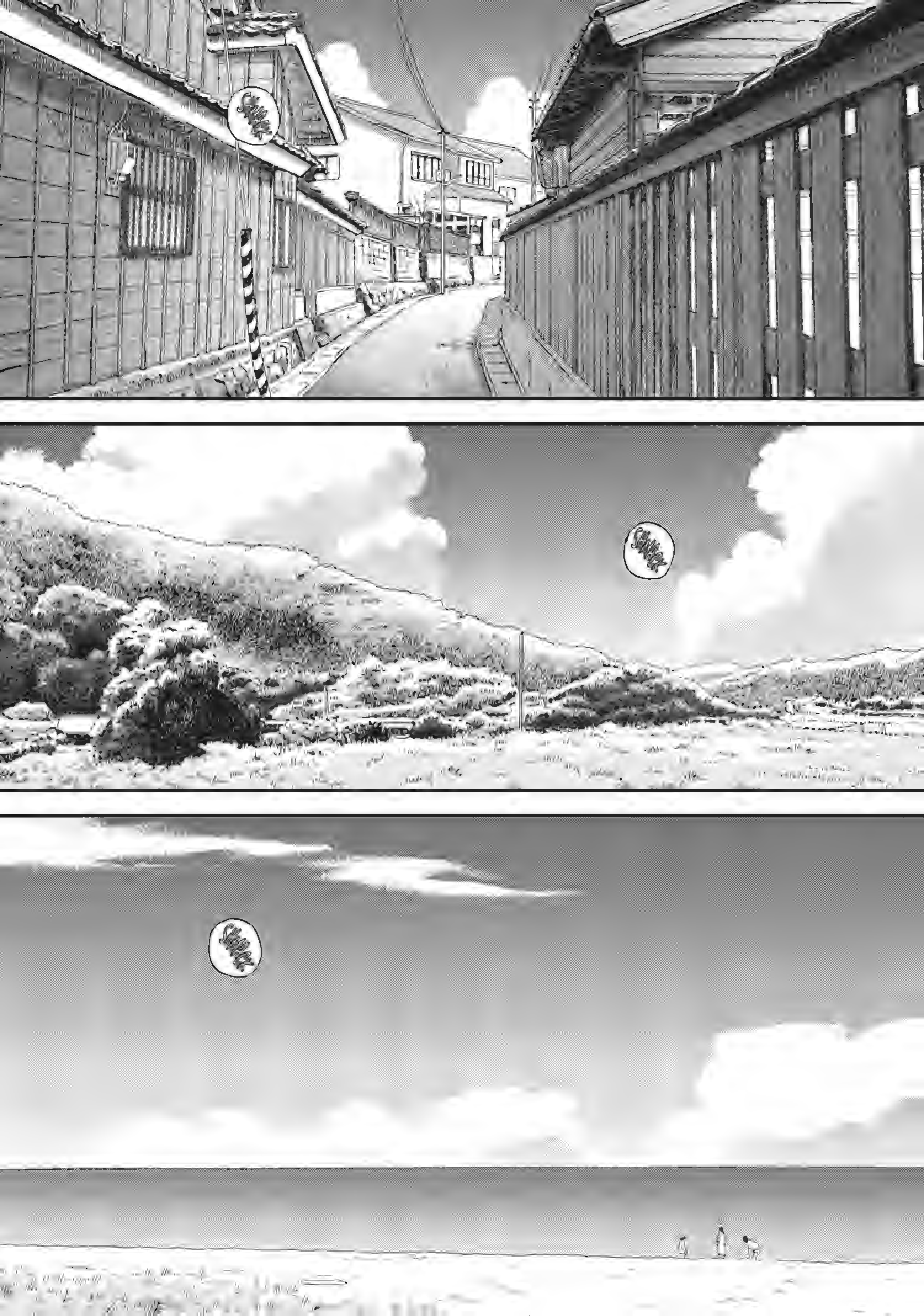



PIIII
HYORORO...
WHEN'S NEECHAN GONNA WAKE UP?
SHE WAS ALWAYS THE SECOND ONE OUTTA BED, JUST AFTER GRANNY!
I'LL GO WAKE HER UP. FUMI-CHAN OUGHTA BE HERE SOON.
LET HER LIE ABED WHILE SHE CAN.
AWOO...
MUST BE A WEIGHT OFF TO BE BACK HOME.


GUH...
MOOORNIN'...
'BOUT TIME~!
WANT SOME TOAST?
ふる… WOBBLE
ふる… WOBBLE
MNGH...
ATE TOO MUCH... YESTER-DAY...
HOW 'BOUT SOME WATER-MELON?
SURE...
M'KAY.
MOM... DON'T YA HAVE WORK TODAY?
NOPE. TOOK THE DAY OFF.
AWW. YOU DIDN'T HAFTA.
I WANTED TO.
ゴ CLUNK



SHVACK
SHAA
TNK
SHVACK
SHVACK




ガラララ...
RATTLE...
G'morning!
HURRY UP! FUMI-CHAN'S HERE!
Oh no!
HUH?!
SHOOT! IS THAT THE TIME ALREADY?!


PATTER
SORRY, FUMI! I'LL BE RIGHT OUT!
PATTER...
Scene 16 END



Scene ⑰ A Peppy End to Summer Break


Today is the first morning...
of school after summer break.
GOOD MORNING!
HELLO THERE.
わうっ
ARF!!
HELLO AGAIN!
びっ
SHWIP


I DON'T WANNA GOOO...
Yer gonna miss the plane.
ジタ THRASH
バタ THRASH
I cried a little, but that's in the past.
Because Iwakura Mitsumi, fifteen years old...
is back in big-city mode!
LET'S DO THIS!
Yeah!
OH!


GOOD MORNING, SHIMA-KUN!
にこ BEAM!
HEY, MITSUMI-CHAN.
LONG TIME NO SEE.


WHAT?
Hee hee!
OH...
I WAS JUST THINKING IT'S LUCKY YOU'RE THE FIRST CLASSMATE I SAW.
Ha ha!
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
DID YOU GET A TAN?
I SURE DID!
I SPENT EVERY DAY AT THE BEACH BACK HOME.
LET'S MOVE IT A LITTLE MORE TO THE RIGHT!
OKAY!
TAK
TAK
OH, IT'S KANECHIKA-SENPAI.


GOOD MORNING, SENPAI!
MITSUMI-KUN! SHIMA-KUN!
GOOD MORNING!
ARE YOU GETTING READY FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL?
Indeed!
TAK
MY GRAND SCHEME IS TO FINISH THE LARGEST SET PIECES FIRST! THAT MOTIVATES EVERYONE!
TAK
AND IT CAN ONLY BE A GOOD SIGN I CROSSED PATHS WITH SHIMA-KUN SO EARLY, TOO.
Heh heh...
What am I to you people, a power-up?
THAT REMINDS ME!
WAIT RIGHT THERE!
SCURRY
SCURRY

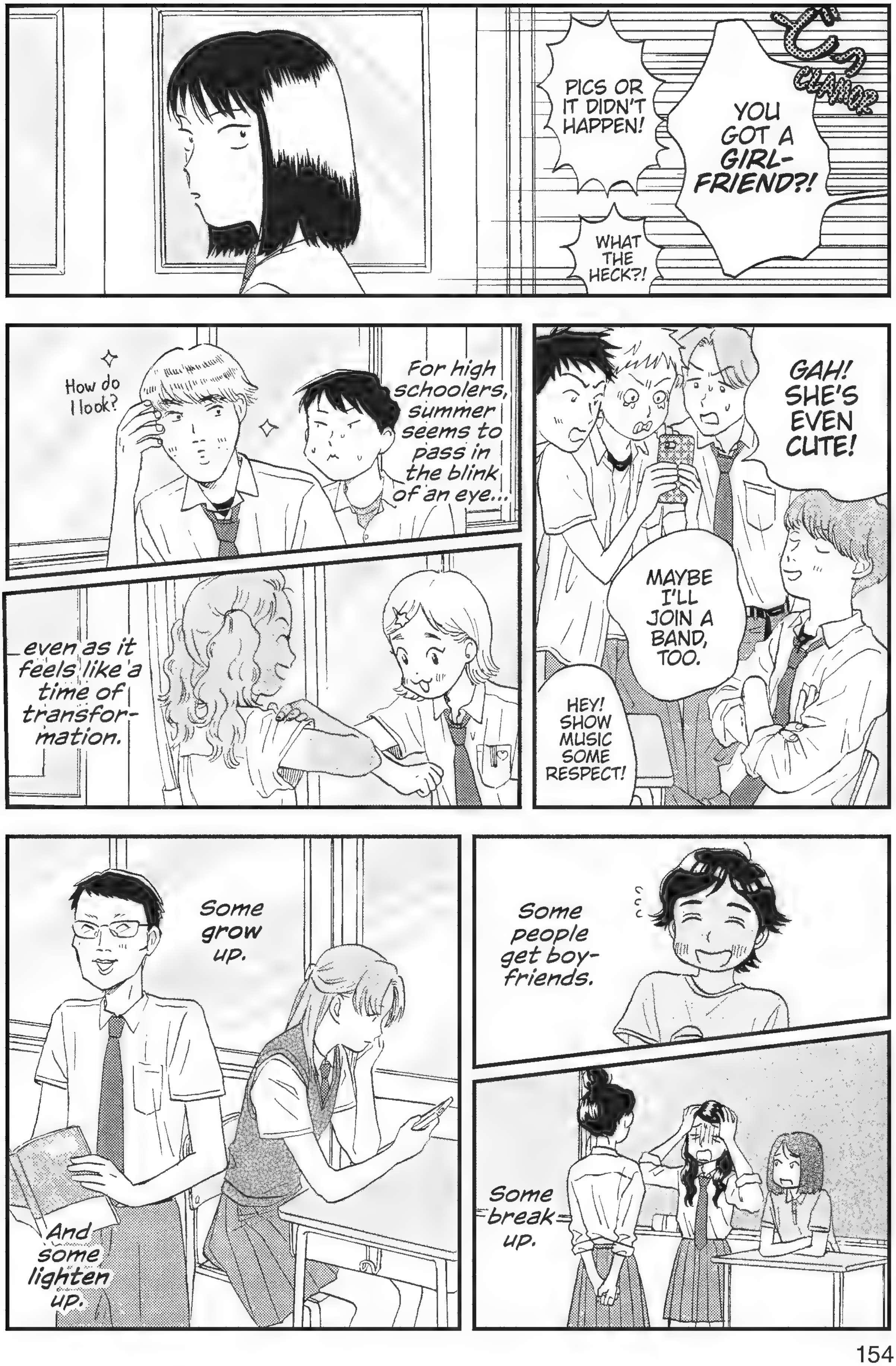

BEHOLD, THE SCRIPT FOR OUR SCHOOL FESTIVAL PLAY!
ONE OF MY BEST WORKS TO DATE!
NOT TO WORRY, SHIMA-KUN, I'M NOT RECRUITING YOU. IT'S ALREADY CAST.
PLEASE, WON'T YOU GIVE IT A READ?
I'M PURELY INTERESTED IN YOUR THOUGHTS.


Ha ha!
I DON'T THINK I'LL GIVE YOU THAT OPENING, SENPAI.
PUSH
YOU GOT ME.
Do come see the play, though! I mean it!


MITSUMI!
YUZU-CHAN! MAKOC-CHAN!
きゃっ SQUEE!
I MISSED YOU~!
きゃっ SQUEE!
CHECK OUT THAT TAN!
MAKOC-CHAN, DID YOU GET PALER?
MIKA-CHAN! I'M BA--
SWF ス
Okay, cool it.
WHAT ARE THESE?
COOKIES FROM SOME FAMOUS PLACE IN KYOTO. GIVE ONE TO NAO-SAN.


YUM.
KRNCH KRNCH
WHEN DID YOU GET FRIENDLY WITH NAO-CHAN?
It's so cutie!
AWW! THANK YOU! ♡
URK...
LONG STORY.
Oh!
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE, TOO.
SKRSH
SQUIDDY SENBEI
SQUID SENBEI FROM MY HOMETOWN!
TA~DA!
SQUIDDY SENBEI
YUM.
CRUNCH
I'LL PASS SOME OUT TO SHIMA-KUN AND THE OTHERS.
SWIVEL
Gosh.
YOU EAT EVERYTHING YOU GET RIGHT AWAY, HUH?

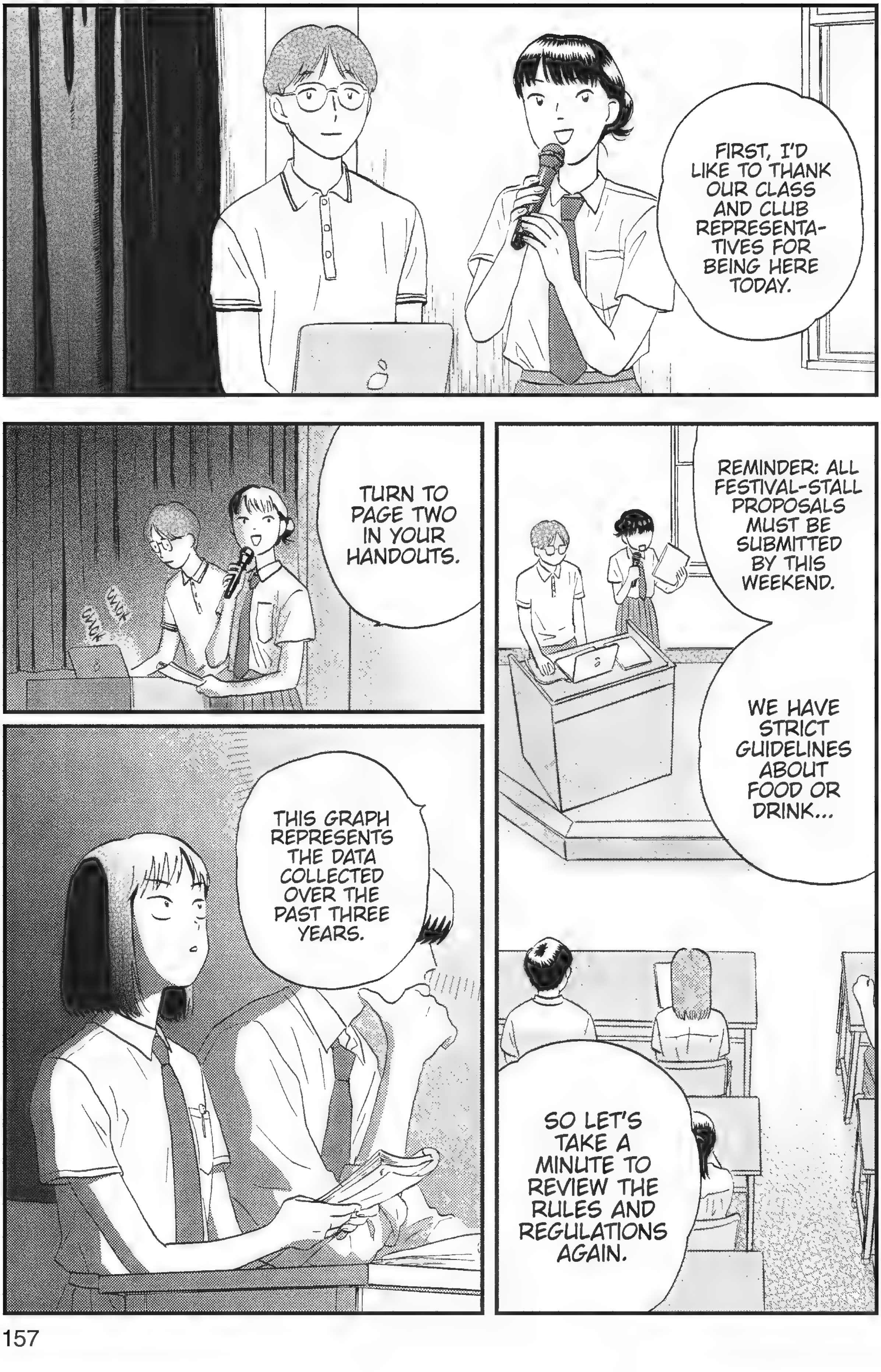

LOOKS LIKE I JUST MISSED 'EM.
THERE'S ALWAYS LATER.
OH.
CHATTER
CHATTER
HEY, WATA-NABE.
THANKS FOR THE NOTES.
Sure.



CLANK!
YOU GOT A GIRL-FRIEND?!
PICS OR IT DIDN'T HAPPEN!
WHAT THE HECK?!
For high schoolers, summer seems to pass in the blink of an eye...
How do I look?
GAH! SHE'S EVEN CUTE!
MAYBE I'LL JOIN A BAND, TOO.
HEY! SHOW MUSIC SOME RESPECT!
...even as it feels like a time of transfor-mation.
Some people get boy-friends.
Some grow up.
And some lighten up.
Some break up.


Some people get closer...
and others drift away.


ARE YOU PUMPED, MITSUMI-SAN?
AM I... PUMPING...? WHAT??
I MEAN, ARE YOU EXCITED?
I HOPE SO. IT'S TIME FOR THE STUDENT COUNCIL TO ROLL UP ITS SLEEVES FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
Heh heh...
I SEE!
IT'S A PRETTY BIG DEAL, YOU KNOW! IT'S EVEN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
HA HA HA...
I'M SURE IT'S UNLIKE ANYTHING *YOU'VE* EVER SEEN, IWAKURA-SAN.
Wow!
CONDE-SCENDING MUCH?

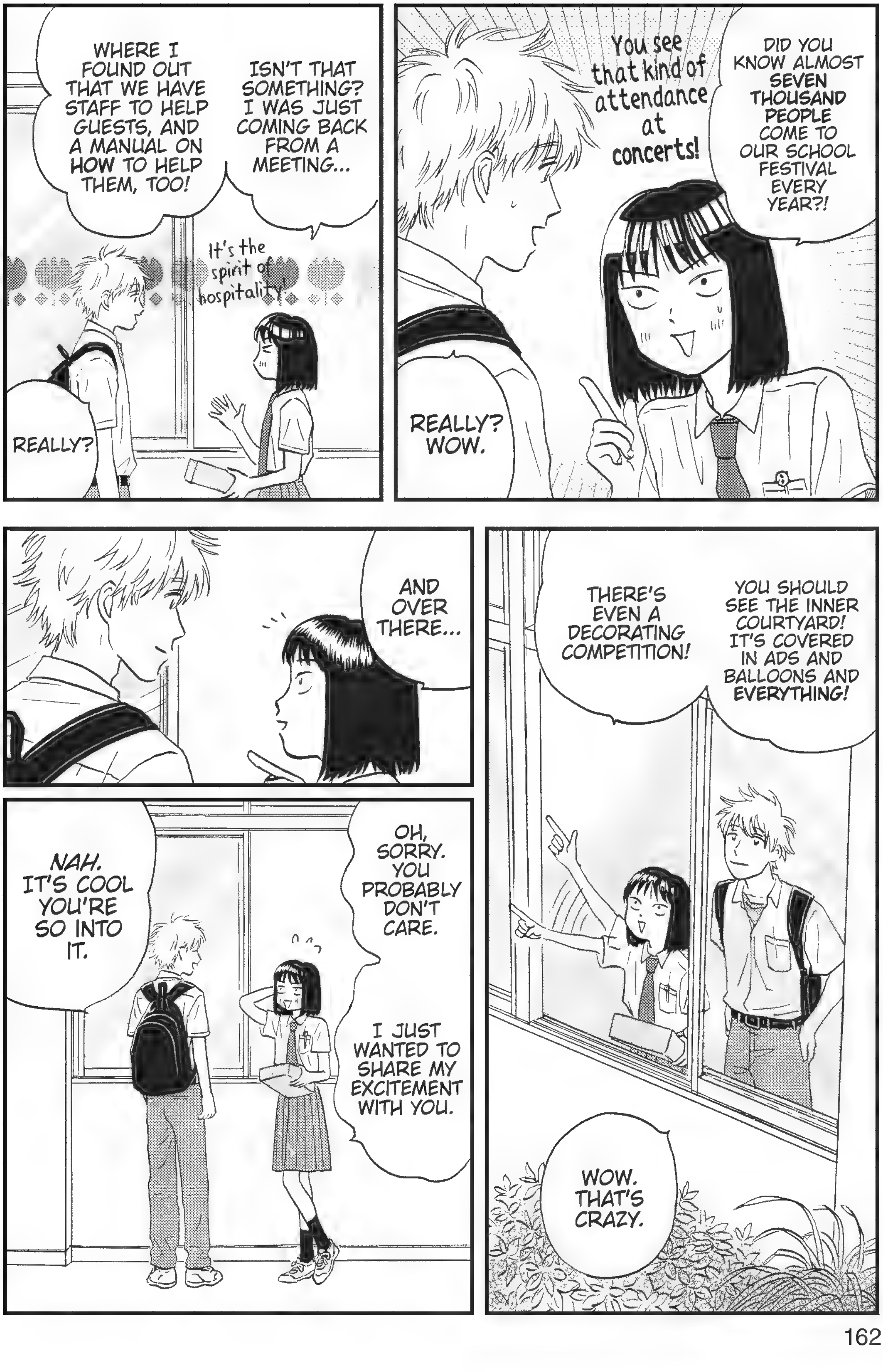

FIRST, I'D LIKE TO THANK OUR CLASS AND CLUB REPRESENTA-TIVES FOR BEING HERE TODAY.
TURN TO PAGE TWO IN YOUR HANDOUTS.
REMINDER: ALL FESTIVAL-STALL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THIS WEEKEND.
WE HAVE STRICT GUIDELINES ABOUT FOOD OR DRINK...
THIS GRAPH REPRESENTS THE DATA COLLECTED OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.
SO LET'S TAKE A MINUTE TO REVIEW THE RULES AND REGULATIONS AGAIN.


AS YOU KNOW, THE FESTIVAL IS MEANT TO ATTRACT JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS AND TO SHOW THEIR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS...
STAFF ARE STRATEGIC-ALLY PLACED AROUND CAMPUS TO...
Haunted House
Literary Club
Meeting Room
IT SOUNDS INCRED-IBLE!!
HA HA HA.
......
What should I do with this over-whelming joy?!
Wow, that's nifty!
Sounds like so much fun.
If I told Fumi, it might come off as big-city snobbery.


THERE'S SHIMA-KUN.
OH!
But maybe he's busy?
Would I bother him?
WHAT PERFECT TIMING!
IS HE LEAVING? MAYBE I CAN TALK TO HIM!
I'M SORRY, I HAVE TO LEAVE FOR ABOUT TEN MINUTES!
I'LL GATHER THE PRINTOUTS AS SOON AS I'M BACK!
YEAH, SURE.


Sometimes things are awkward just because you haven't spoken in a while.
SKSH
SKSH
BATAM
TMP
TMP
It's the strangest thing.
But when you're really happy, you're dying to share it.


SHIMA-KUUUN!
I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU...!
G-GUESS SO.
HERE.
PANT!
WHEEZE!
SQUIDDY SENBEI... FOR YOU...
OH.
THANKS.
Whew!
H...
HEY, UM...


WHERE I FOUND OUT THAT WE HAVE STAFF TO HELP GUESTS, AND A MANUAL ON HOW TO HELP THEM, TOO!
ISN'T THAT SOMETHING? I WAS JUST COMING BACK FROM A MEETING...
It's the spirit of hospitality!
REALLY?
DID YOU KNOW ALMOST SEVEN THOUSAND PEOPLE COME TO OUR SCHOOL FESTIVAL EVERY YEAR?!
You see that kind of attendance at concerts!
REALLY? WOW.
AND OVER THERE...
OH, SORRY. YOU PROBABLY DON'T CARE.
I JUST WANTED TO SHARE MY EXCITEMENT WITH YOU.
NAH. IT'S COOL YOU'RE SO INTO IT.
YOU SHOULD SEE THE INNER COURTYARD! IT'S COVERED IN ADS AND BALLOONS AND EVERYTHING!
THERE'S EVEN A DECORATING COMPETITION!
WOW. THAT'S CRAZY.


I ALWAYS THOUGHT EXTRAVAGANT SCHOOL FESTIVALS ONLY HAPPENED IN HIGH SCHOOL DRAMAS!
I'M JUST SO EXCITED!
Well...
HOWEVER. A FIRST-YEAR REP CAN'T BE ACTING LIKE A GIDDY SCHOOLGIRL.
Ah ha ha!
HEY, NO JUDGMENT HERE.
I NEED TO BE COOL AND COLLECTED. LIKE AN ADULT. LIKE YOU!
COME ON. I'M NOT AN ADULT.


LATER.
WELL, SEE YOU LATER!
I'M NOT WHAT YOU THINK I AM, MITSUMI-CHAN.
I'm not collected. I'm just standing still.


But you... You two keep pushing on, full steam ahead.
even as you leave me behind.
You're the ones who dazzle me...


SPIN
くるっ
ACTUALLY, YOU SEEM A LITTLE DOWN, SO I'LL GIVE YOU THREE!
SKSH
ガサッ


SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!

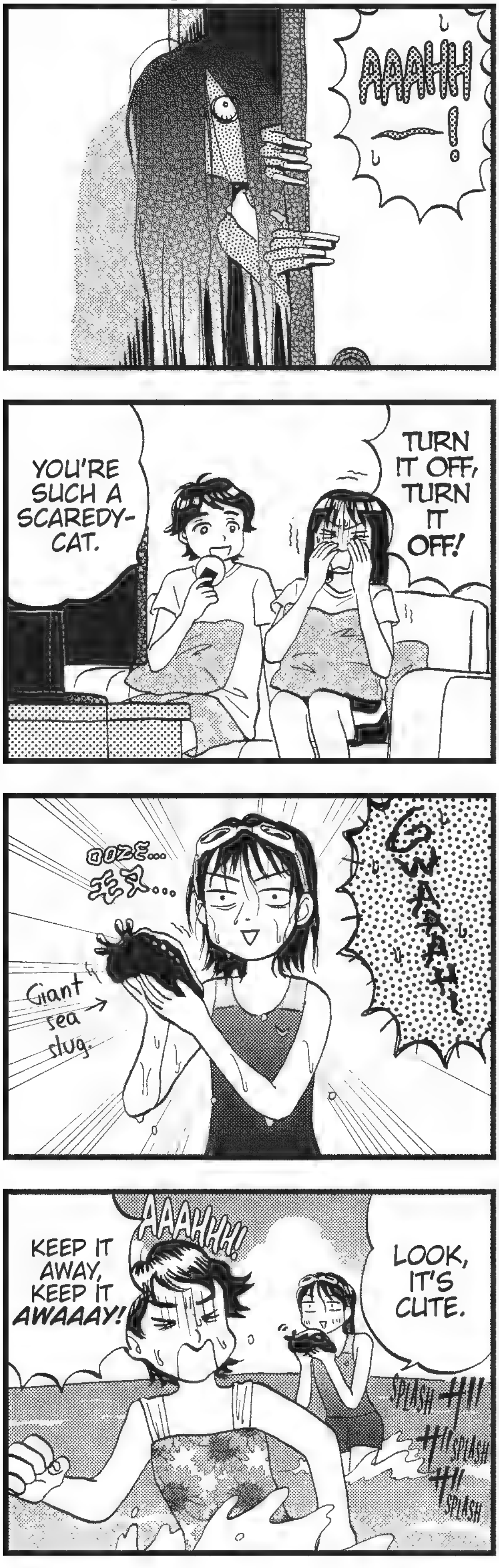

With school festival prep, September will be done before we know it.
That means summer's over...
and only half of the seasons are left.


I hope we can cherish and enjoy what time we still have.


THE RESULTS ARE IN! FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL...
わっ
yay!
CLASS 3 WILL BE PUTTING ON A PLAY!
I KNOW IT'LL BE TOUGH, BUT TOGETHER, WE CAN HANDLE IT!
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ

Scene 17 END

The Things That Scare Us

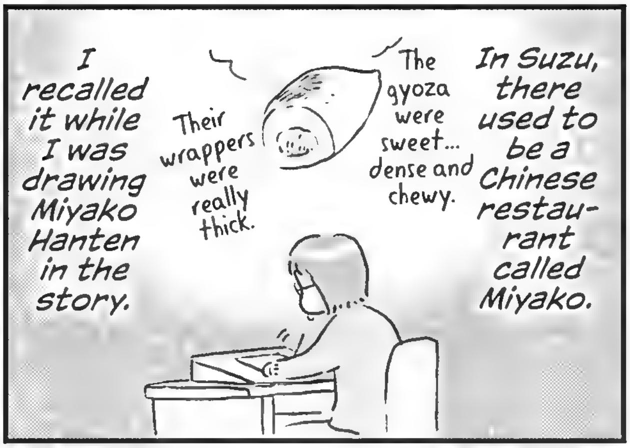


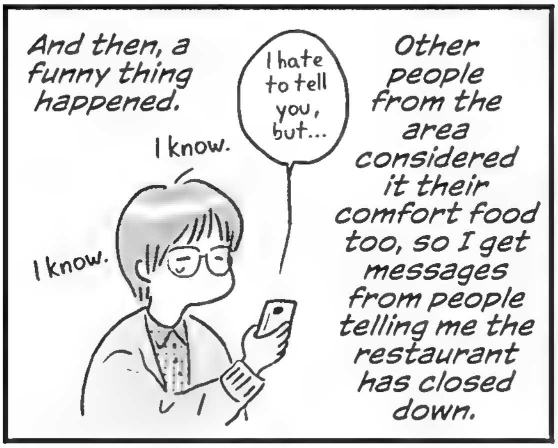
The Beauty Parlor



AFTERWORD


Mitsumi comes from a village called Ikajima, near the city of Suzu.
Right around here.
It's a fictional village I based on the Suzu and Noto areas of the Ishikawa prefecture.
When I'm drawing Skip and Loafer, I ask myself, "What makes a hometown?"
I didn't want to fuel stereotypes with an exaggerated view of the countryside.
That's why their accent...
"Don'tcha know!"
recalls the dialect of my grandma's generation. I think it's cute.
The Tokyo kids.
Instead, I wanted to create a place that would feel familiar to anyone reading it.
Combo 750円
In Volume 2, I wrote about comfort food. For me, that meant gyoza.
Ish hot!
Have you noticed that the foods you crave tend to be those you ate in your youth?









Starting with this volume, I formally brought on some assistants!

Yamato-san

Nito-san

W-Yama-san

Thank you for everything!

To my editor, Miyazaki-san, the editorial team at Afternoon magazine, and everyone involved in the production of this work, I offer my sincerest gratitude.

Yamada

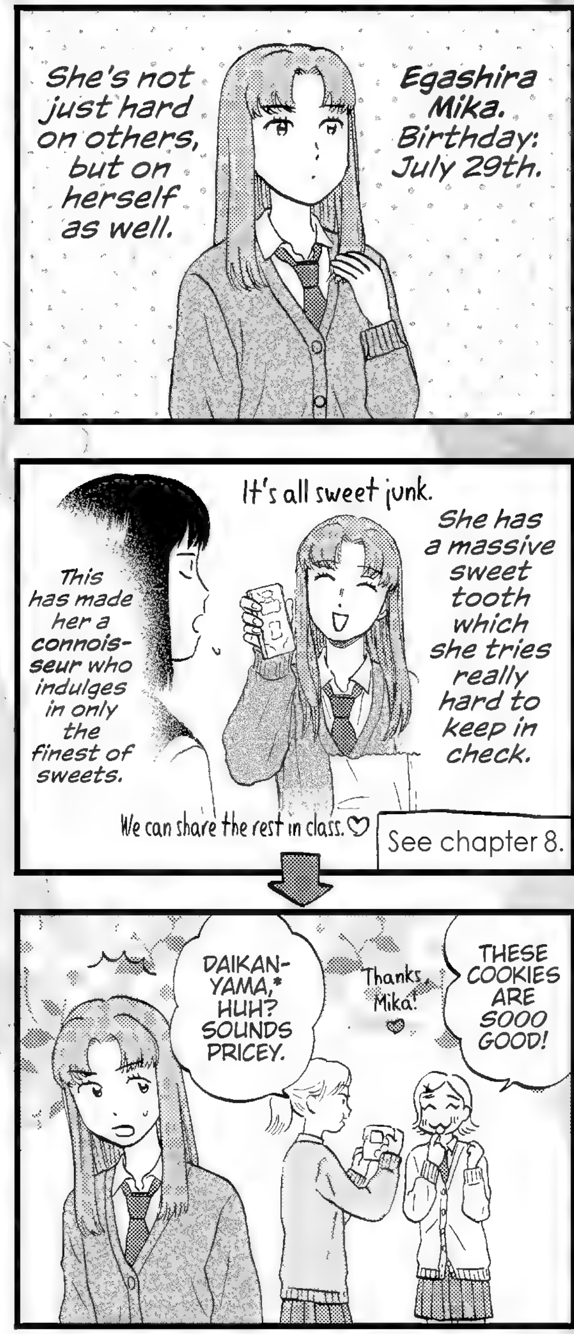


Dogsick

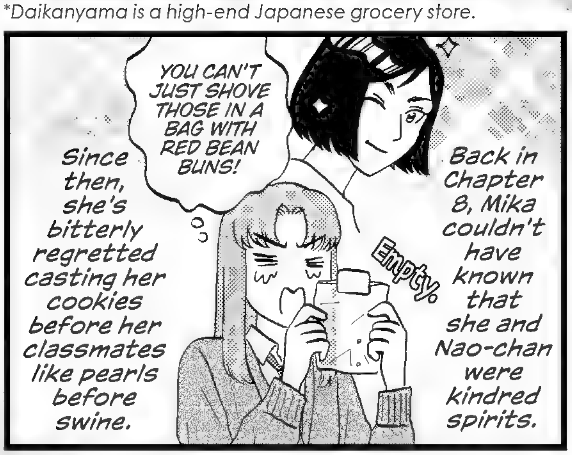


Skip and Loafer

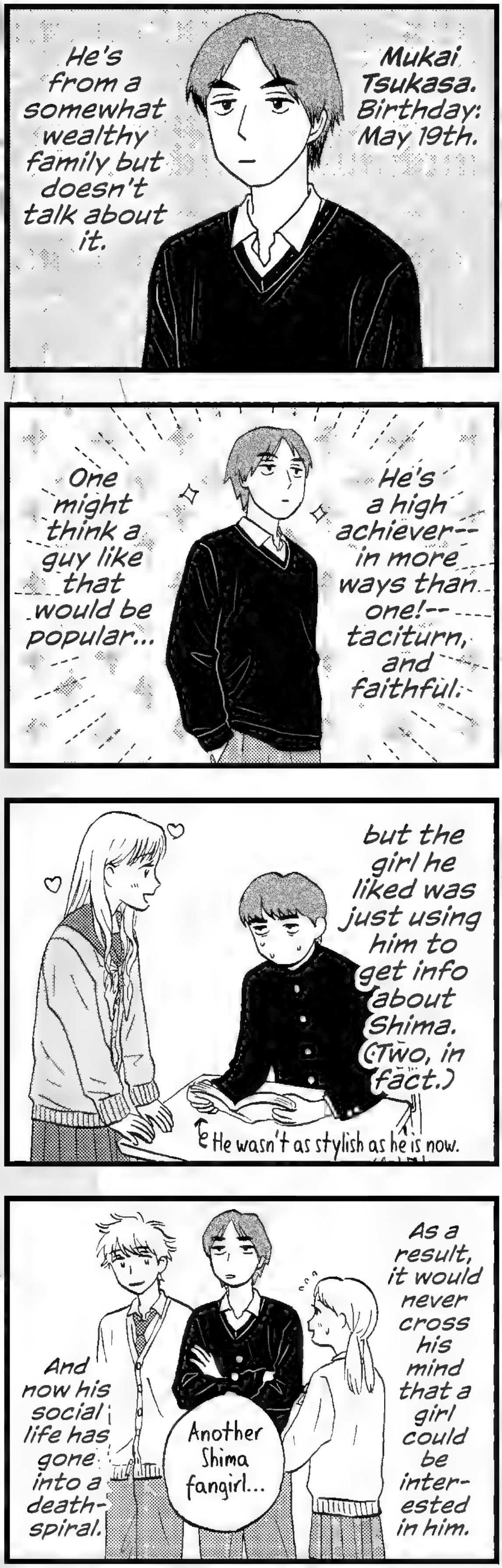
Mika-chan



*Daikanyama is a high-end Japanese grocery store.



Mukai-kun


Mukai Tsukasa. Birthday: May 19th.
He's from a somewhat wealthy family but doesn't talk about it.
He's a high achiever--in more ways than one!--taciturn, and faithful.
One might think a guy like that would be popular...
but the girl he liked was just using him to get info about Shima. (Two, in fact.)
He wasn't as stylish as he is now.
As a result, it would never cross his mind that a girl could be interested in him.
Another Shima fangirl...
And now his social life has gone into a death-spiral.

Skip and Loafer





Skip and Loafer

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

Skip and Loafer

Vol. 3

story and art by Misaki Takamatsu

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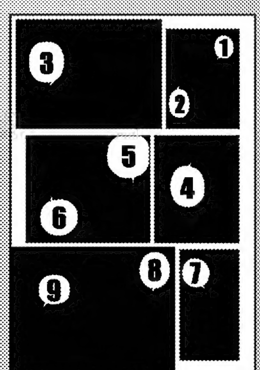
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



Mitsumi's First Summer in Tokyo

Mitsumi is finally getting into the swing of high school life in Tokyo. She's also growing closer to her number-one pal, Shima-kun, whose past slowly comes to light.



TEEN (13+)

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